



Boulder County **TRENDS**

The Community Foundation's Report on Key Indicators

Special report:

HOUSING in Boulder County

A market rebounds, and prices soar

Closing the **ACHIEVEMENT GAP**:

How are we doing?

Left behind:

ECONOMY improves,
but not for everyone

The New Normal:

RECOVERY from natural disasters

More than

150 WAYS TO MEASURE

the **QUALITY** of life in
our **COMMUNITY**

BOULDER COUNTY AT-A-GLANCE

POPULATION*: **309,874**

Total **ACREAGE** in the County**: **474,880**

Preserved **OPEN SPACE** and
conservation easement acreage:** **102,666**

Number of **HOUSEHOLDS**: **120,521**

FAMILY Households: **70,777**

NON-FAMILY Households: **49,744**

MEDIAN AGE **36**

RACIAL/ETHNIC Makeup

88% White

13% Latino (any race)

4% Asian

0.9% Black or African American

0.4% American Indian and Alaska Native

4% Some other race

3% Two or more races

Percent of People Who **SPEAK A LANGUAGE**
Other than English at Home: **17%**

EDUCATIONAL Attainment:

94% High school graduates

58% Bachelor's degree or higher

26% Graduate degree

2013 **MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME**: **\$92,667**

2013 **POVERTY LEVEL** for a family of four:
\$23,550

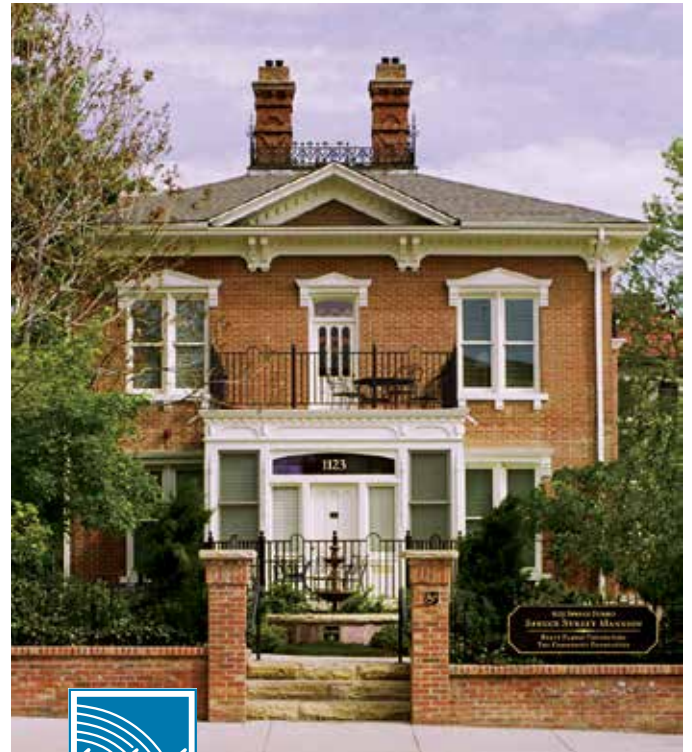
INDIVIDUALS BELOW poverty: **14%**

Families with **KIDS BELOW** poverty: **11%**

CHILDREN BELOW poverty: **13%**

*Population data from Colorado State Demography Office

**Boulder County | All other data from the 2013 American
Community Survey



The Community Foundation –

The Community Foundation has proudly served Boulder County residents since 1991, always mindful that you want your donations to make an impact. By listening and studying, we learn about our community's potential and gaps. The TRENDS Report is a cornerstone of the foundation's work. We compile the data in TRENDS to inform ourselves and focus our efforts, and we publish TRENDS as a resource for you. The more we all know, the better we can work together to make informed investments that truly impact our community. **See page 98 for more about the work of The Community Foundation.**



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Thanks to the organizations and individuals who support this project

A Letter from the President

TRENDS@20

This is a milestone year for the TRENDS report, The Community Foundation's biennial indicators report. Twenty years ago, The Boulder County Healthy Communities Initiative was launched to provide long-term planning for the sustainability of Boulder County's environment, livability, and economic vibrancy.

But you can't sustain a county's vitality without knowing how well it's doing – and where there are opportunities to improve. One of the group's first plans of action was to develop a county-wide community indicators report.

The healthy communities initiative became The Civic Forum, which became a program of The Community Foundation in 1999. The name and home changed, but the dedication to a comprehensive community indicators report has not. In fact, we've grown considerably, tripling the indicators we track and expanding our reach in the community each year. Hundreds of annual presentations to community leaders and engaged residents have supported strategic planning for businesses and nonprofits alike, while also inspiring local policy change.

Look for special TRENDS@20 features in each chapter to learn about data and information from previous reports, community trends that may have changed – for better or for worse.



The Community Foundation was founded by a small and inspired group of county residents in 1991. Today, the foundation is stronger than ever, and provides recognized leadership. The foundation has distributed more than \$62 million in grants in Boulder County and beyond.

We are one of 1,400 independent community foundations around the world, dedicated to improving the quality of life in a specific place or region. Community foundations marked the 100th anniversary of their founding in 2014.

That auspicious occasion was marked by a conference, during which I was fortunate enough to attend a wonderful speech given by Ambassador James Joseph. He emphasized the role of community foundations beyond grantmaking – especially for communities that are becoming more diverse. It's a focus we here at The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County find particularly compelling.

"Many activists ... are engaged passionately in public life, but like Thoreau at Walden Pond, there is a tendency to build castles in the sky and then set out to put foundations under them (no pun intended). Community foundations can help them to ground their passion into persuasive evidence by providing not just networks but knowledge." – Ambassador James Joseph

We at The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County share that attitude. As we approach our quarter-century of improving the quality of life here, we know that deep knowledge about the county's residents is a critical asset.

Who we are:

It's no secret that the landscape of Boulder County is rapidly changing. In particular, municipalities located outside the City of Boulder have seen enormous growth, forever changing formerly sleepy small towns and prairies into busy suburbs and cities.

At the same time, we have a population that is growing older – as the Baby Boomers continue to reach the age of 65.

Today, 13 percent of the county is 65 or older.

By 2025, it will be 18 percent. By 2030, it will be more than 20 percent.

We're also becoming more racially diverse. In 1990, 90 percent of the county identified as Anglo. Today, that number is 79 percent. Latinos are our fastest-growing population, growing from 7 percent in 1990 to 13 percent today.

Our Economy:

Many people do very well here, with median incomes that are higher than the state and national averages. As we find more distance between today and the Great Recession, we're finding positive economic news along with it: Very high household incomes in some cases, as well as new construction and a steep drop in foreclosures.

We also have a lot of inequality here: In fact, median earnings of high school graduates without a college degree are actually less than they were before the recession. The percentage of people living in poverty here – including families, children and especially Latino children – has grown.

And there's a deep and lingering gap between the incomes of Anglo and Latino households – a much bigger gap than the one that exists between those two populations nationwide.

Inequality isn't our only problem. Rising housing costs and a lack of affordable housing has grown into a deep, serious issue that impacts the county's economy as a whole.

See our special report on housing, page 64.

Our Health and Human Services:

Boulder County is famous nationwide for its good health, and we have a safe community which improves the quality of life here. Our kids are unlikely to take health risks at an early age, and the declining rate of teen pregnancy and teenage births continues to be good news.

Here, too, is a story of inequality: **Low-income families and Latinos are less likely to have health insurance – even after the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.** Latina teens are more likely to give birth than their Anglo peers, and the percentage of births to Latina teenagers in Boulder County is higher than those in Colorado.

Boulder County also has a high suicide rate. It's higher than the national rate. In fact, Colorado has one of the highest suicide rates in the nation.

Our Education:

Boulder County continues to outpace the state and nation in the number of residents who hold higher education degrees.

But school achievement for the kids who grow up here continues to be one of Boulder County's biggest paradoxes, and presents one of our main challenges. **Far too often, Latino kids and kids who are economically disadvantaged are falling behind their peers.** It's a pervasive issue, extending to everything from third-grade reading proficiency, to high school graduation, to which of those high school grads will pursue a higher degree. We're dedicated to taking a leadership role in narrowing the achievement gap.

See our School Readiness Initiative chapter, page 36.





Our Civic Participation and Giving:

Boulder County is a remarkably engaged community, and residents report a very high satisfaction with living here. But we struggle to be inclusive with our increasingly diverse community.

We're also very generous – to a point. We have a high rate of volunteerism, and an even higher rate of residents who say they volunteer to help friends and neighbors outside of an organized volunteer structure.

But a national ranking of how much Boulder County residents give of their treasure – that is, donations as a percentage of their adjusted gross income – puts us at No. 44 out of 64 Colorado counties. And Colorado's rate of giving is lower than that of all its Western neighbors.

Our Environment:

Boulder County has a long record of environmental activism, and indeed a "green" reputation that precedes it nationwide. Some municipal efforts to divert trash out of landfills are paying off, and the City of Boulder's relatively new fee on disposable bags from food retailers has seen early success. We have substantial open space, and a county-wide (and regional) trail system that is growing and connecting our communities to one another and beyond.

Reliance on coal is waning: A good thing for emissions in the air. But most of us still drive to work, solo, in our cars. We tend to be solidly average when it comes to water usage, and we have so many high ozone days that the American Lung Association gave the county an "F" on air quality.

Our Arts and Culture:

If you want to be inspired in 2015-2016, look to the arts, where positive news abounds. The arts enrich our lives and inspire our residents – young and old alike. Cultural opportunities here have grown, and ticket sales have recovered since the Great Recession. What's more, Boulder County is recognized nationally as an "arts cluster" – with a high number of artists and cultural institutions. That's great for our quality of life, and a boost to the economy as well.

I invite you to delve into this data – but this isn't the end of the conversation. Follow our blog at www.commfound.org, where we will continue to update the indicators we follow, as well as a host of other information about Boulder County, our programs, our community partners and our grantees.

Follow us on Twitter (@CommFound) and on Facebook (Community Foundation Serving Boulder County), where you can learn about our leadership and discover ways to give back to your local community. Request a TRENDS presentation for your business or your civic group.

With your participation, we can continue to engage and inform our community on improving the quality of life here in Boulder County, now and forever, and build a culture of giving.

Josie Heath

President

The Community Foundation



Carta de la Presidenta

TRENDS @ 20 / TENDENCIAS @ 20

Este es un año clave para TRENDS/TENDENCIAS, el reporte bienal de la Fundación de la Comunidad que recoge los principales indicadores del Condado de Boulder. Hace veinte años, la Iniciativa de Comunidades Saludables del Condado de Boulder fue lanzada con el fin de proveer planificación a largo plazo en materia de sustentabilidad del ambiente, habitabilidad y vitalidad económica en el Condado.

Sin embargo, no es posible mantener la vitalidad de un condado sin saber qué tan bien lo está haciendo y dónde están las oportunidades para mejorar. Uno de los primeros planes de acción del grupo fue desarrollar un reporte de los indicadores de la comunidad en todo el condado.

La Iniciativa de Comunidades Saludables se convirtió en el Foro Cívico el cual pasó a ser un programa de la Fundación de la Comunidad en 1999. Su nombre y sede cambiaron, pero su enfoque de ser un reporte completo y detallado de indicadores de la comunidad no cambió. De hecho, hemos crecido considerablemente triplicando el número de indicadores que seguimos y expandiendo, el alcance dentro de la comunidad cada año. Las cientos de presentaciones que realizamos sobre este reporte anualmente han servido de base para la planificación estratégica de negocios y organizaciones sin fines de lucro, así como para generar cambios en la políticas locales.

Revise en cada capítulo del TREND@20/TENDENCIAS@20 en donde se destaca datos e información de reportes anteriores y tendencias que han cambiado en la comunidad, para bien o para mal.

La Fundación de la Comunidad fue fundada en 1991 por un pequeño y progresista grupo de residentes. Hoy en día la Fundación es más fuerte que nunca y brinda su reconocida capacidad de liderazgo. La Fundación ha distribuido más de 62 millones de dólares en el Condado de Boulder y más allá.



Somos una de las 1,400 fundaciones de la comunidad independientes alrededor del mundo que están dedicadas a mejorar la calidad de vida en una localidad o región específica. Las fundaciones de la comunidad celebraron el centésimo aniversario de su creación en el 2014.

En el marco de esa feliz ocasión, se celebró una conferencia durante la cual tuve la suerte de escuchar el maravilloso discurso dado por el Embajador James Joseph, en el cual enfatizó el papel de las fundaciones de la comunidad más allá de la otorgación de fondos, especialmente en las comunidades con creciente presencia de diversidad poblacional. Éste es un enfoque que la Fundación de la Comunidad que sirve al Condado de Boulder considera particularmente imperiosa.

“Muchos activistas... están apasionadamente comprometidos en la vida pública, pero como Thoreau en la laguna de Walden, hay una tendencia a construir castillos en el cielo y entonces colocar las fundaciones debajo de estos (sin querer hacer un juego de palabras). Las fundaciones de la comunidad pueden ayudarlos a aterrizar sus pasiones con evidencias convincentes al proporcionarles conocimiento y no únicamente de redes de contactos.” – Embajador James Joseph

Nosotros en la Fundación de la Comunidad que sirve al Condado de Boulder compartimos esa postura. Al llegar a nuestro cuarto de siglo mejorando la calidad de vida aquí, nosotros estamos convencidos que el conocimiento profundo sobre los residentes del condado es un activo invaluable.

Quiénes somos:

No es un secreto que el panorama del Condado de Boulder está cambiando rápidamente. Particularmente en los municipios ubicados en las afueras de la ciudad de Boulder, se han visto grandes crecimientos y que se han transformado de pequeños pueblos ciudades concurridas.

Al mismo tiempo, tenemos una población que está envejeciendo que son los Baby Boomers y continúan llegando a los 65 años de edad. **Hoy en día el 13 por ciento del condado tiene 65 años o más, para el 2025 serán el 18 por ciento y para el 2030 representarán más del 20 por ciento.**

También nos estamos haciendo más racialmente diversos. En 1990, 90 por ciento del condado se identificaba como blanco. Hoy en día, ese número es 79 por ciento. Los latinos son la población de más rápido crecimiento, siendo el 7 por ciento en 1990 hasta llegar al 13 por ciento actualmente.

Nuestra economía:

No es un secreto que a mucha gente le va bien, con un ingreso medio mayor que el promedio del Estado y la nación. En la medida que nos alejamos de la Gran Recesión, nos encontramos con noticias económicas positivas. Ingresos familiares muy altos en algunos casos, así como nuevas construcciones y un gran declive en ejecuciones hipotecarias.

Pero aquí también existen muchas desigualdades, de hecho los ingresos medios de un egresado de preparatoria, sin estudios universitarios, están por debajo de lo que eran antes de la recesión. Aquí el porcentaje de personas viviendo en la pobreza, incluyendo familias, niños y especialmente niños latinos ha crecido.

Además existe una gran y persistente brecha entre los ingresos de los anglosajones y el de los latinos, mucho más grave que en el resto del país.

La desigualdad no es nuestro único problema: los crecientes costos de vivienda y la carencia de viviendas asequibles han llegado a tal extremo que afectan la economía del Condado en su totalidad.

Por favor lea nuestro reporte especial sobre vivienda, página 64.

Nuestra Salud y Servicios Humanos:

El Condado de Boulder es reconocido nacionalmente por su buena salud y por su seguridad lo cual se traduce en una mejor calidad de vida. Nuestros jóvenes están menos propensos a tomar acciones riesgosas para la salud a temprana edad y la tasa decrecientes de embarazos juveniles y nacimientos de madres adolescentes continúan siendo buenas noticias.

Sin embargo aquí también hay historias de desigualdad: las familias de bajos ingresos y los latinos tienen menos posibilidades de contar con seguros de salud, inclusive después de la implementación del Affordable Care Act. Las latinas adolescentes tienen más probabilidades a tener hijos que sus pares anglosajonas y el porcentaje de partos de jóvenes latinas en el Condado de Boulder es más alto que el del estado de Colorado.

El Condado de Boulder además tiene una alta tasa de suicidios, más alta incluso que la tasa nacional. De hecho, Colorado tiene una de las tasa de suicidio más alta de la nación.

Nuestra Educación:

El Condado de Boulder continua superando al estado de Colorado y la nación en el número de residentes con títulos universitarios.

Sin embargo, para los jóvenes que crecen en el condado este logro académico continúa siendo una de las más grandes paradojas, así como uno de los mayores retos. **Con demasiada frecuencia, los jóvenes latinos y los jóvenes de bajos recursos se quedan relegados con respecto a sus pares.** Es un problema generalizado que se registra desde los niveles de habilidad lectora en tercer grado, pasando por la graduación de la secundaria, hasta los estudiantes que logran graduarse y finalmente continuar estudios universitarios. Nosotros estamos dedicados a liderar el esfuerzo para reducir esta brecha de rendimiento académico.

Por favor lea nuestro capítulo sobre Preparación Escolar, página 36.



Nuestra Participación Cívica y la Cultura de Dar:

El Condado de Boulder es una comunidad extraordinariamente comprometida y sus residentes manifiestan una gran satisfacción de vivir aquí. Pero se nos dificulta ser incluyentes con nuestra creciente diversidad de poblaciones.

Somos muy generosos pero – hasta un punto. Tenemos una alta participación de voluntarios e inclusive una mayor participación de residentes que se ofrecen a ayudar a vecinos y amigos fuera de un voluntariado formal.

Sin embargo, de acuerdo a una clasificación nacional en materia de cuánto es el aporte monetario de los residentes por condado – definido como donaciones como porcentaje de los ingresos brutos ajustados – nos coloca en el lugar No. 44 de 64 condados de Colorado. El nivel de donación en Colorado es inferior al de todos sus vecinos del oeste.

Nuestro Ambiente:

El Condado de Boulder tiene una larga historia de activismo ambientalista y ciertamente una reputación “verde” que la precede en todo el país. Algunos esfuerzos municipales para desviar la basura de los vertederos están dando resultados y la tarifa de la Ciudad de Boulder a las bolsas desechables está teniendo resultados iniciales positivos. Por otra parte, tenemos abundantes áreas verdes y una extraordinaria red de senderos que crece y une a las comunidades a nivel del Condado y regional.

La dependencia en el carbón esta disminuyendo, lo cual es bueno para las emisiones en el aire. No obstante, mucho de nosotros seguimos manejando solos al trabajo. Por otra parte, somos sólo promedio en el consumo de agua y tenemos tantos días con índices altos de ozono que la Asociación Americana del Pulmón dio al Condado una “F” por su calidad de aire.



Nuestro Arte y Cultura:

Si usted se quiere sentir inspirado en el 2015-2016 siga las artes, donde las noticias positivas abundan. Las artes enriquecen nuestras vidas e inspiran a nuestros residentes tanto jóvenes como mayores. Las oportunidades culturales han crecido y la venta de boletos se han recuperado desde la Gran Recesión. Adicionalmente, el Condado de Boulder es reconocido nacionalmente como un conglomerado de las artes con un gran número de artistas e instituciones culturales. Esto es excelente para nuestra calidad de vida, así como también empuje para la economía.

Los invito a profundizar en estos datos – pero este no es el final de la conversación. Lea nuestro blog al cual podrá acceder a través de www.commfound.org, donde estaremos actualizando los indicadores que estudiamos y colocando información adicional sobre el Condado de Boulder, nuestros programas, nuestros socios comunitarios y los beneficiarios de nuestros aportes.

Síganos en Twitter (@CommFound) y en Facebook (Community Foundation Serving Boulder County), donde podrá conocer sobre nuestro liderazgo y descubrir nuevas maneras de aportar a la comunidad. Solicite una presentación del Reporte TRENDS/TENDENCIAS para su negocio, organización o grupo cívico.

Con su participación podremos continuar involucrando e informando a la comunidad en cómo mejorar la calidad de vida en el Condado de Boulder, ahora y para siempre y así construir la cultura de dar.

Josie Heath

Presidenta

La Fundación de la Comunidad



A close-up, vertical photograph of a dog's face, showing its eye and fur, positioned on the left side of the page.

Who Are We?

**Boulder County's becoming older
and the percentage of Latinos is growing**

INDICATORS IN THIS CHAPTER

Older Adults and
Population Growth

Population Growth of Cities

Cities At-a-Glance

Ages of Anglos and Latinos

Race/Ethnicity in Boulder County

Place of Birth

Household Makeup

Internet Use

**"Communication leads to community,
that is, to understanding, intimacy
and mutual valuing."**

– Rollo May, 1909 – 1994

The City of Boulder remains the largest municipality in Boulder County – but the City of Longmont and East County suburbs are growing at a fast clip. Boulder County's municipalities to the east have forever changed the former pastoral, rural and mining identities of those cities and towns. Places once dominated by prairie and tumbleweed are now covered with suburban single-family homes and schools teeming with children.

At the same time, a rapidly aging population and a growing Latino population have economic and cultural impacts on every community here.

A Baby Boom Retires

As the Baby Boomers age into retirement and beyond, they continue to make a major impact on American demographics, and Boulder County is no exception.

In 2015, the state estimates there were 40,168 residents who were 65 and older in Boulder County.

In 2040, that's expected to be 88,889 people. We will go from having a senior population of about 1 in 10 today to 1 in 5 by 2030 as the cohort of those born soon after World War II ages in place, or moves here to be near family or the Flatirons.

The implications are many: (See Aging in Place, page 18.)

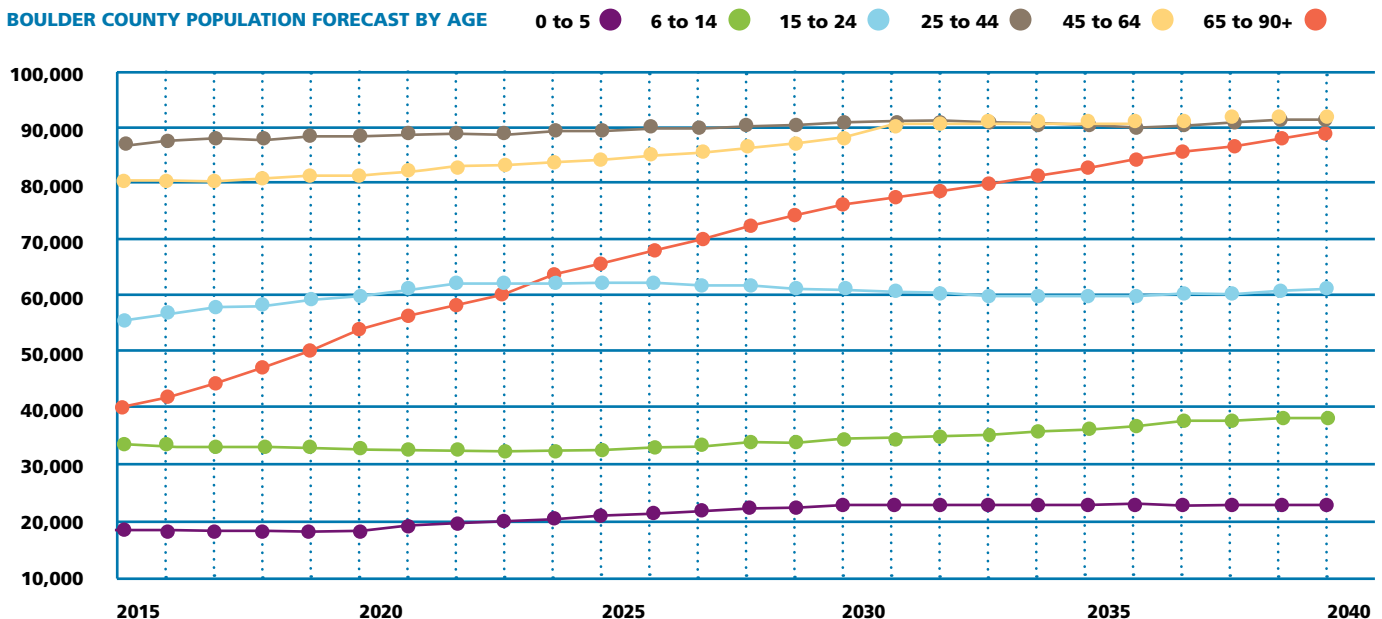
According to FiveThirtyEight Economics, a quarter-million people turn 65 in the United States every month.

Of course, statistics and the economy only tell a small part of the aging story. We do face a challenge: we need to prepare our housing stock, our transportation systems and our economy to align with our changing reality. But as it turns out, Boulder County's seniors and soon-to-be seniors have a lot going for them. There are stories and lessons about grace and hard work that our older generations can teach those of us still in, or just starting, the rat race.

Issues of regionalism and aging also present our community with some challenges that are relatively new to us: How are we poised to accommodate a massive demographic shift in terms of our aging population? Do we have the right housing stock to allow seniors to age in place? Can our transportation system get everyone to where they need to be? Are we prepared for a population that increasingly will live on fixed incomes, instead of working and raising families?

And in a time when we're becoming less white and more ethnically diverse, are we cultivating a culture of openness and mutual valuing? Do we have community leaders ready to build culturally relevant programs and practices?

BOULDER COUNTY POPULATION FORECAST BY AGE



Source: Colorado State Demographer's Office Population Forecast 2015

“ People who age well are connected to a broader community – a community that welcomes, embraces, appreciates and enlivens the spirit of all of its members, including older adults. The inspiration for a community in which we all age well is a desire to mix all age groups in their glorious human variety.” – Mary Cobb, Via Mobility Services

According to the 2013 U.S. Census, 53 percent of Boulder County's population ages 60 and older have a bachelor's degree or higher, more than twice the national percentage. Seventy-eight percent report no disabilities, compared with 68 percent nationwide. **Boulder County's residents ages 60 and older are more likely to be employed, less likely to be on food assistance, and have higher earnings (and higher retirement earnings, if they are no longer working) than the national average.**

“We age by nature,” says Mary Cobb, the director of communications for Via Mobility Services. “We age well by foresight, preparation and creativity. Setting new challenges, continuing to see the humor in life, looking forward instead of back and giving back to the community all promote lifelong renewal.”



Former Outposts Become Suburban Powerhouses

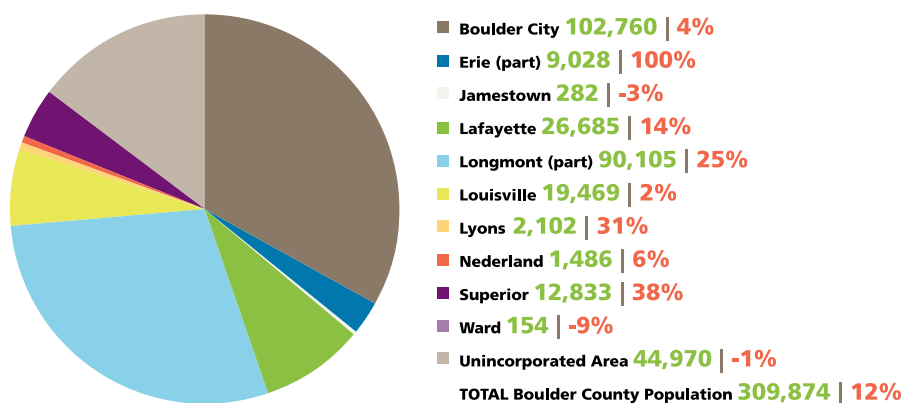
The City of Boulder from 2000 to 2013 grew by only 4 percent, a reflection of how built-out it already was near the turn of the century, and about three decades of policies that prohibited high-rise apartments and dense mountain sprawl.

Over that same period, the Town of Erie grew by 200 percent, doubling in size on its Boulder County portion alone (about half the town is also rapidly expanding across the county line in Weld County.) The City of Longmont, almost all of which lies in Boulder County, grew by 25 percent, the Town of Superior grew by 38 percent and the City of Lafayette grew by 14 percent.

With new housing projects primarily outside of the City of Boulder, and a healthy economy offering employment opportunities, the county's population grew by close to 10,000 from 2011 to 2013 alone. Most of that growth was outside of Boulder: The City of Boulder grew by less than 2,600 from 2011 to 2013.

Compellingly, the growth of some of our municipalities, including Lafayette and Longmont, are making portions of Boulder County similar to the demographics of our nation as a whole – with the exception of college degree rates and home values, which are much higher than the national norm. Both Longmont and Lafayette have comparable percentages of foreign-born populations, the percentage of people who speak a language other than English at home, and median ages when compared with the United States as a whole.

2013 BOULDER COUNTY POPULATION BY COMMUNITY AND PERCENTAGE OF CHANGE SINCE 2000



*Erie as a whole has grown 200% since 2000. The Boulder County portion of Erie has grown 100%.

Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs



FACT:

28.7% of Boulder County households have one or more persons under the age of 18.

18.5% of all Boulder County households have someone 65 or over.

Boulder County Cities At-A-Glance, 2013

	Boulder	Longmont	Lafayette	United States	Colorado
Population	102,760	90,227	26,685	313,861,723	5,192,076
Median Age	28	36	40	37	36
Latino	8%	26%	16%	17%	21%
Speaks a language other than English at home	14%	24%	19%	21%	17%
Median Home Value*	\$487,400	\$237,900	\$261,600	\$173,200	\$236,100
Lived in the same house one year ago	61%	79%	83%	85%	80%
Lived in another county one year ago	16%	6%	10%	6%	9%
Foreign Born	10%	14%	10%	13%	10%
Births per 1,000 women aged 15-50 past 12 mo.	27	62	90	53	55
Population with a disability	7%	12%	10%	12%	10%
Population under 18 with a disability	1%	5%	2%	4%	3%
Population 65 and over with a disability	25%	32%	32%	36%	32%
Population over the age of 3 enrolled in school	43%	27%	23%	27%	27%
High School Graduate (25+)	97%	86%	95%	86%	90%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher (25+)	74%	37%	55%	29%	37%
Living Below Poverty					
Families	6%	11%	4%	12%	9%
Families with related kids under 18	9%	18%	6%	19%	14%
Individuals**	24%	15%	7%	16%	13%
Children	9%	24%	11%	22%	18%
65 +	6%	7%	3%	10%	8%

*Median home value is for all owner-occupied homes based on ACS data. For sales price figures on single-family homes, see page 61. **Includes students

Source: 2011-2013 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates; Local population counts from the Colorado Local Affairs – Demographer's Office

Growing Diversity

Reflecting national and statewide trends, Boulder County is also becoming more diverse, especially with a growing Latino population. **In 1990, only 10 percent of the county was a person of color. By 2013, that had grown to more than 20 percent, with the percentage of Latinos nearly doubling to 13 percent.** In 2013, 31 percent of the county's Latino population was under the age of 15, compared with 14 percent of the Anglo population.

This presents an enormous cultural gift as the county becomes less uniform and more diverse. But with higher rates of poverty in communities of color – particularly among families with children – and an achievement gap in our schools between Anglos and Latinos, we are also presented with a major community challenge.

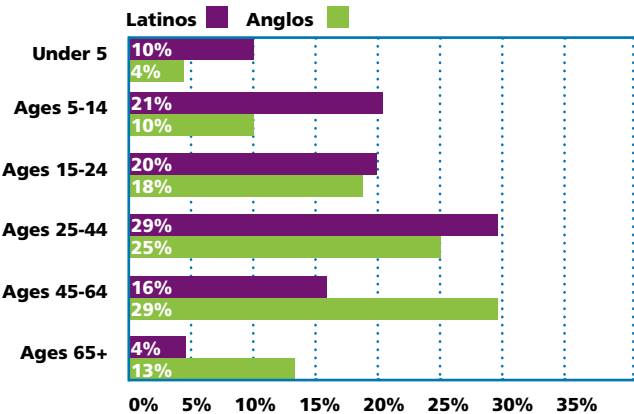
	Boulder County			Colorado	U.S.
	1990	2000	2013	2013	2013
Anglo	90%	84%	79%	70%	63%
Black or African American	1%	1%	1%	4%	13%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	1%	1%
Asian	2%	3%	4%	3%	5%
Some other race		5%	4%	5%	5%
Two or more races	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%
Latino - Any race	7%	11%	13%	21%	17%

Source: American Community Survey

30% of local Latinos are living in poverty

35% of local Latino kids under 18 are living in poverty

Boulder County Age Distribution, 2013



Source: American Community Survey



Types of Household 2013						
	Nederland	Louisville	Lafayette	Longmont	Boulder City	Boulder County
Family Households*	52%	67%	62%	67%	43%	59%
Non-Family Households	48%	33%	38%	33%	57%	41%
Average Household Size	2.24	2.42	2.44	2.59	2.22	2.24

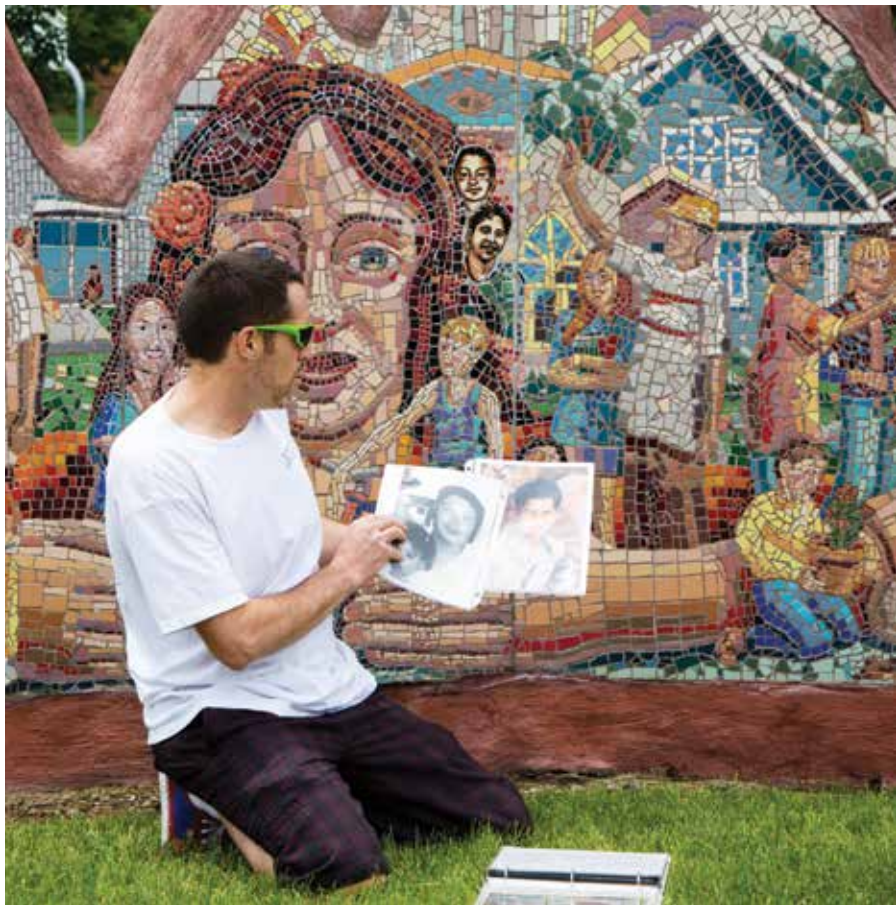
*Family households are defined as a householder and one or more people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage or adoption.
Source: American Community Survey

A Global Community

Less than one-third of our Boulder County neighbors were born in the state of Colorado. The vast majority were born in other states, but 11 percent – almost 33,000 people – were born in other countries. We struggle to be inclusive of this significant population (See page 91), which includes people from all over the world – most notably permanent, legal residents from Mexico and Nepal. Longmont’s population is 15 percent foreign-born, higher than both the state and the nation’s percentage of global immigrants.

Birthplace, Boulder County	
Colorado	97,795
U.S., Other	166,084
Latin America	14,191
Asia	9,468
Europe	6,828
Northern America	1,251
Africa	599
Oceania	357

Source: American Community Survey 2013



We Are Wired – and Ready for Business

People living in Boulder County are more likely than Coloradans or U.S. residents living elsewhere to own a home computer and to have a broadband subscription. That may be why so many of the county’s workers – **11 percent, compared with the national rate of just 4 percent** – report that they work from home.

Boulder County Household Internet Connectivity		
	With a computer	With broadband Internet subscriptions
Boulder County	95%	86%
City of Boulder	95%	87%
City of Longmont	92%	81%
Colorado	89%	79%
United States	84%	73%

Source: American Community Survey 2013



Eliberto Mendoza and Meca Delgado

We Know When to Lead



You told us that action was needed to make local boards and commissions representative of who lives in Boulder County, and data corroborated that need. We knew we needed to find a way for emerging leaders to broaden their networks and think differently about whom to include. In partnership with the Boulder Chamber of Commerce, we set out to expand the pipeline and idea of leadership for Boulder County.

Forty-seven percent of last year's participants of The Community Foundation's Leadership Fellows Program have already joined a community board or commission and an additional 20 percent have applied for one.

Here's what graduates of the Leadership Fellows Program say about the impact of the program on their work:

Tiernan Doyle, Executive Director of Boulder Flood Relief and a current Leadership Fellow said, "We have the opportunity to make new connections and rethink strategies, keeping the larger community in mind."

Meca Delgado, Program Specialist with the Boulder County Community Services Department and Board Chair of the Longmont YMCA, said, "The Leadership Fellows program gave me the opportunity to really think about how I want to carry my voice – for anyone who needs a voice at the table."

"If you're interested in having a significant role in the crucial conversations that are happening, if you want to really understand what's happening outside your own office and your own passions, and if you want to learn what it means to achieve true inclusivity ... this program is the conduit," said Eliberto Mendoza, Leadership Fellows Alum and Director of Boulder County Community Action Programs.



TRENDS @ 20

In 1980, the population of Louisville was 5,593. The population in 2013 was 19,469.

In 1995, the Boulder County per capita personal income was \$27,978. In 2013, it was \$54,968.

In 2000, 6.5 percent of the county's families with children fell below the federal poverty line, which was \$17,050 for a family of four. In 2013, 11.1 percent of the county's families with children were living under the poverty line, which was \$23,550 for a family of four.

The Colorado minimum wage was \$5.15 an hour in 2002. The minimum wage in 2015 was \$8.23.

Feeling Inspired?

- **Attend an event** celebrating a culture that's different from your own. One Action: Arts + Immigration Project will be hosting events through 2016 across Boulder County to celebrate immigrants living here.
- **Volunteer to help** seniors in your community. IceBusters and YardBusters are just two ways to help seniors living at home. Those opportunities and more are available at Boulder County CareConnect.
- **Get to know** towns outside of your own. Invite someone new to your civic or other groups' events.
- **Like** The Community Foundation's Facebook page. You will find information about current events and posts about our several grantees and community partners.

Sources

Colorado State Demography Office
American Community Survey
U.S. Census Bureau
FiveThirtyEight Economics
The Boulder County Area Agency on Aging





Aging in Place

The biggest demographic shift in the county's recent history will occur within the next two decades. Is Boulder County ready?

"Youth is the gift of nature, but age is a work of art." – Polish poet Stanislaw Jerzy Lec, 1909-1966

The Baby Boomers, those born in the years following World War II, have obsessed the nation more or less since birth. (Although the term "Baby Boomer" wouldn't come until decades later.)

As they grew up their spending power and cultural attitudes were the biggest forces in American life. Boomers grew up to be "hippies." Until they grew up again to be "yuppies."

Then, in 2011, the first-born of that generation turned 65. In 2013 in Boulder County, 13 percent of the residents were 65 or older. That will grow to more than 20 percent by 2030.

Many seniors are retirees – a cohort that will become more pronounced as those 65 and older continue to age and become less likely to be working. That will have a profound impact on the local economy. “This will put tremendous pressure on finances,” says Richard Wobbekind, the executive director of the Business Research Division of the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado Boulder. “People as they age consume more services than retail (goods).” Since much of our economy is driven by consumer spending – and many of our services are funded by sales taxes – the shift will be noticeable, he says. **The jail, human service nonprofits, open space, RTD, flood recovery and the Scientific Cultural and Facilities District all depend on sales tax revenues.**

It’s not just about aging, which every generation does naturally. The overall makeup of the community will change. In Boulder County, “the labor force had been growing faster than the population,” Wobbekind says. “Moving forward, this reverses.”

Major Changes Afoot in Area Hospitals

Seniors use health care more than any other age group – so where will they be going in the years ahead?

Consolidation and growth seems to be the name of the hospital game in Boulder County.

In 2015, Centura Health was acquiring Longmont United Hospital (143,000 square feet.) It also owns Avista Adventist Hospital (120,000 square feet) in Louisville.

The University of Colorado Health system announced it would open a new 172,000 square-foot hospital in Longmont as well. It has also purchased a clinic in Longmont, and announced it planned a separate emergency room in Longmont as well.

Boulder Community Health, formerly Boulder Community Hospital, announced it would sell its Broadway campus and consolidate those services at its sprawling Foothills campus (200,000 square feet for the main building), which also includes the Tebo Family Medical Building (24,000 square feet) and the Anderson Medical Center (46,000 square feet.) It planned in 2015 to add another 130,000 square feet of clinical space – in addition to separate offices – at Foothills.

The area’s other major hospital is Good Samaritan in Lafayette. That 477,000 square foot hospital opened in 2004.

SALES TAX COLLECTIONS, 2014

City of Boulder	\$90 million
Lafayette	\$11 million
Longmont	\$47 million
Louisville	\$11 million

Source: City governments



The Importance of Mobility

"The experience of giving up my car was one of the two most traumatic events I've ever had in my life," says Russ M., a 90-year-old Via rider. The other was the death of his first wife.

The growth of our aging population is already impacting the way people get to where they need or want to go. This becomes difficult as people age. There has already been a growing use of Via, the county's transportation service for people with mobility limitations.

In 2009, the nonprofit served 2,316 unduplicated clients. Just five years later, in 2014, it served 3,010.

“I had no trouble transitioning from the corporate world into retirement. By volunteering at Longmont United Hospital and the Longmont Senior Center, I have become involved in the community. Meeting new people, teaching them computers and technology, and being inspired by them are what keep me going. I feel like I have grown immensely as I continue to age. Staying healthy and staying abreast of the exciting changes in technology are my challenges. It is up to me to age well by utilizing and supporting the opportunities offered here in my home town.” – Sarah Jane Snyder, 71

Special Report to the Community

Living Here and (Mostly) Loving It

The good news: our seniors like it here. A survey of Boulder County seniors reports that they are satisfied with the quality of life here. The Boulder County Area Agency on Aging's 2014 Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA) found:

- **More than 90 percent of Boulder County's older residents gave high ratings to the community as a place to live.**
- **About 75 percent of older adults would recommend Boulder County to others.**
- More than 90 percent of older adults rated the recreation opportunities in Boulder County as "excellent" or "good"; participation in recreational and personal enrichment activities were much higher in Boulder County than in other communities.

However, the county's older adults don't feel as included in our community as they might. When compared with their peers in other regions of the country, they don't rate Boulder County's sense of community as high:

- Only about 60 percent of older residents rated the sense of community as "excellent" or "good", and only about 50 percent gave positive ratings to the County's neighborliness and valuing of older residents.
- When compared to other communities in the U.S., older residents in Boulder County gave much lower ratings for aspects of community and belonging.



Special Report to the Community



Diverse Populations

At a time of increasing awareness and embracing of diversity issues, seniors in Boulder County today have more options to help them age well, when compared with previous generations.

The Colorado Latino Age Wave is a metro-Denver area agency dedicated to supporting Latinos entering *la tercera edad* (third stage of life).

The agency recognizes the cultural heritage of Latino seniors, and helps connect caregivers and even policymakers with the values, languages and relationships that are central to the Latino population. Its goals include increasing the capacity of nonprofits that work with Latino older adults, as well as helping more Latino older adults become activists to support policies that will improve their quality of life in the region, which includes Boulder County.

More information is available at: latinocfc.org/latino-age-wave

“Many years ago I asked a dear friend to tell me what the source was of her ever present serenity. Her response was, ‘My serenity is in direct correlation to my expectations of others.’ Then I got it....serenity comes from the Divine within...within our heart and within our soul,” says June Berlinger, 66, of Longmont.

LGBT Seniors

The Boulder County Area Agency on Aging offers services specifically designed for the LGBT community. These services were born in part after a 2004 project identified needs by LGBT older adults in Boulder County, just one of which was encountering some service providers that were not sensitive or supportive of that community. In addition, the community has some unique aspects: LGBT older adults are less likely than straight elders to have children to potentially look after and care for them as they age, and are more likely to live alone.

The project has since grown into a comprehensive and ongoing training program for caregivers and others.

More information can be found at www.bouldercounty.org/family/seniors/pages/aaalgbt.aspx



Preparing Communities for Older Adults

Some questions remain for communities as they plan for this major demographic shift.

Do we have enough homes in our communities for seniors? Ranch-style homes and townhomes with main-floor master suites are already in high demand in Boulder County – and they are priced to match that high demand and low inventory.

Will our public transportation systems accommodate seniors, including those who don't live in the heart of our cities?

The City of Boulder has limits on how many unrelated people can live together in a home. And regulations in Boulder and in some neighborhoods in other cities and towns make it hard or illegal to add on to a home – for instance additions that could add “mother-in-law” suites. Are communities prepared to adapt?

Does Boulder County have enough assisted living facilities to enable our seniors to age in the communities they desire?

In 2015, Boulder County had just completed a four-year plan to assess the changing population and the systems in place to meet their needs.

“Boulder County is a place where people can age well. In addition to providing demographic challenges, an older population makes significant paid and unpaid contributions to the community,” said Robin Bohannon, director of community services for the county. “Both Age Well Boulder County and the Boulder County Area Agency on Aging Area Plan identify goals and best practices, including increasing awareness about how to access information and assistance, addressing disease prevention and self-management through evidence-based programs, supporting family caregivers who are an essential part of the health care system, engaging advocates in addressing housing and transportation issues, and targeting services to under-served populations.”



Togetherness a Top Priority

A 2013 National Council on Aging study found that seniors put a high priority on being near loved ones as they age. “More than half of seniors (53 percent) nationally indicate that ‘being close to friends and family’ is the most important factor contributing to their outlook on quality of life, physical and mental health and getting the most from their golden years,” says Lenna Kottke, executive director of Via Mobility Services.

Being close to friends and family ranked second in importance only to independent living. It ranked higher than everything else on the survey, including being close to health care facilities and having affordable housing.

Looking Ahead

In June 2015, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper signed a law to create the Strategic Planning Group on Aging. The group will be an independent committee to identify and review strategies to respond to Colorado's growing older adult population. It will make recommendations to the state legislature on measures to improve the quality of life for older Coloradans.

TRENDS @ 20

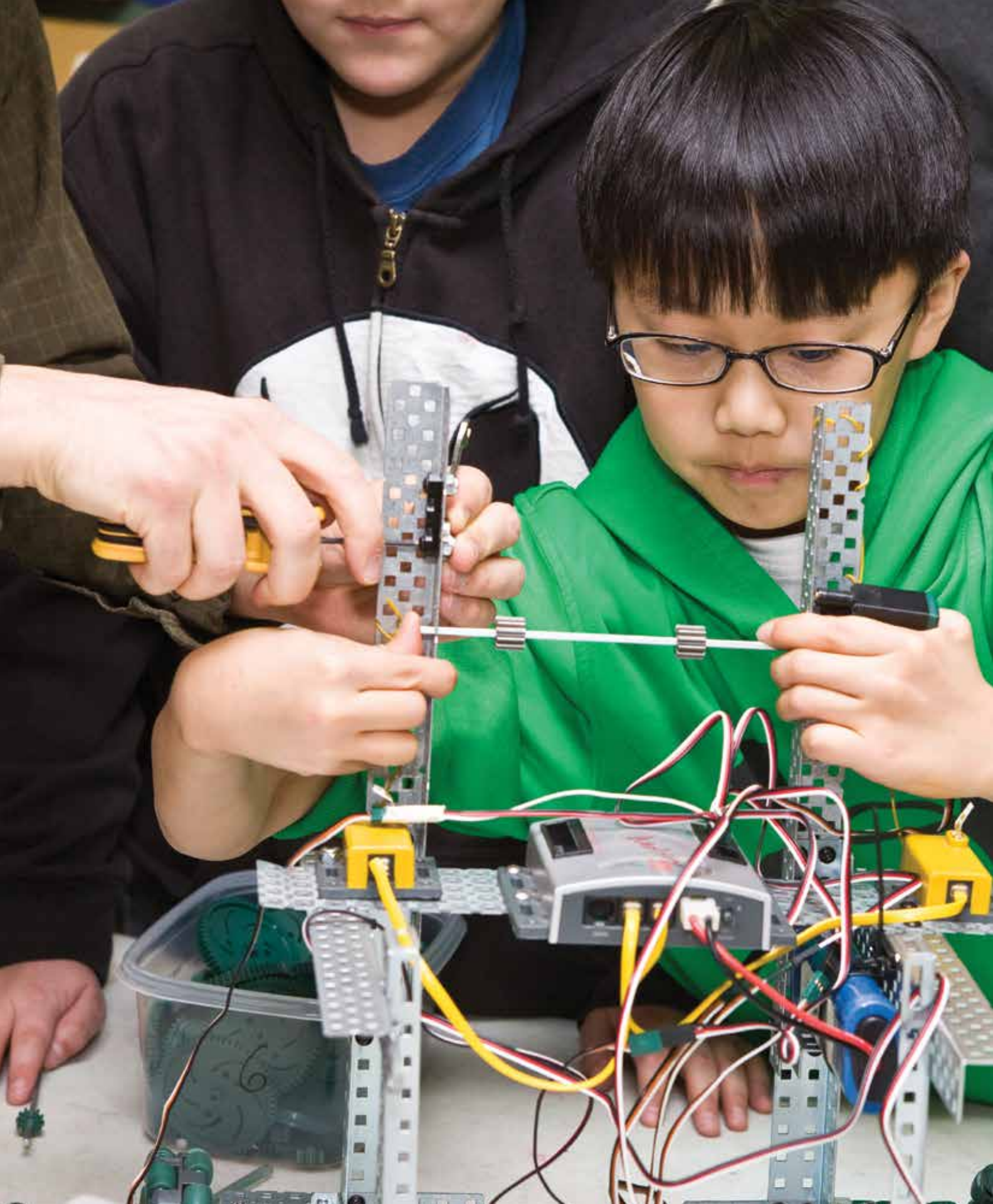
The median age of Boulder County's population was 31.5 in 1990.

The median age was 35.7 in 2013.

Colorado's median age was 32.5 in 1990. It was 36.1 in 2013.

In the year 2000, 8 percent of Boulder County's residents were 65 and older.

In 2013, that had grown to 13 percent.





Our Education

**A highly educated community,
with a significant challenge to improve education for all**

INDICATORS IN THIS CHAPTER

Educational Attainment

District Data

Dropouts

Graduation

Teachers of Color

Advanced Placement

Pupil Funding

English Language Learners

Third Grade Reading

Full Day Kindergarten

Higher Education

College Graduation

Math Proficiency

Achievement Gap

Writing Proficiency

Attendance

We define the achievement gap as the difference in academic performance between kids from high- and middle-income, educated families and that of their peers whose backgrounds include more risk factors and less opportunity. The achievement gap remains wide and persistent in Boulder County. The opportunity to tackle that gap and give every Boulder County child the chance to thrive academically – and eventually economically – presents one of our most critical community challenges, and has been a top priority for The Community Foundation.

Despite that gap, and how hard it is to move from one side of the performance scale to the other, some students work hard to overcome the odds and soar.

Francisco Perez was born in Longmont to immigrant parents. That part of his story is not unique: About 11 percent of Boulder County's residents are foreign born.

Perez talks about the reality of his educational experience in our community: Teen drinking and drugs. He says the pressure many kids in our community feel – to drop out and work to earn money for their families, for some girls to start families of their own as teenagers – can be intense. But so was his drive to stay in school and make his parents proud.

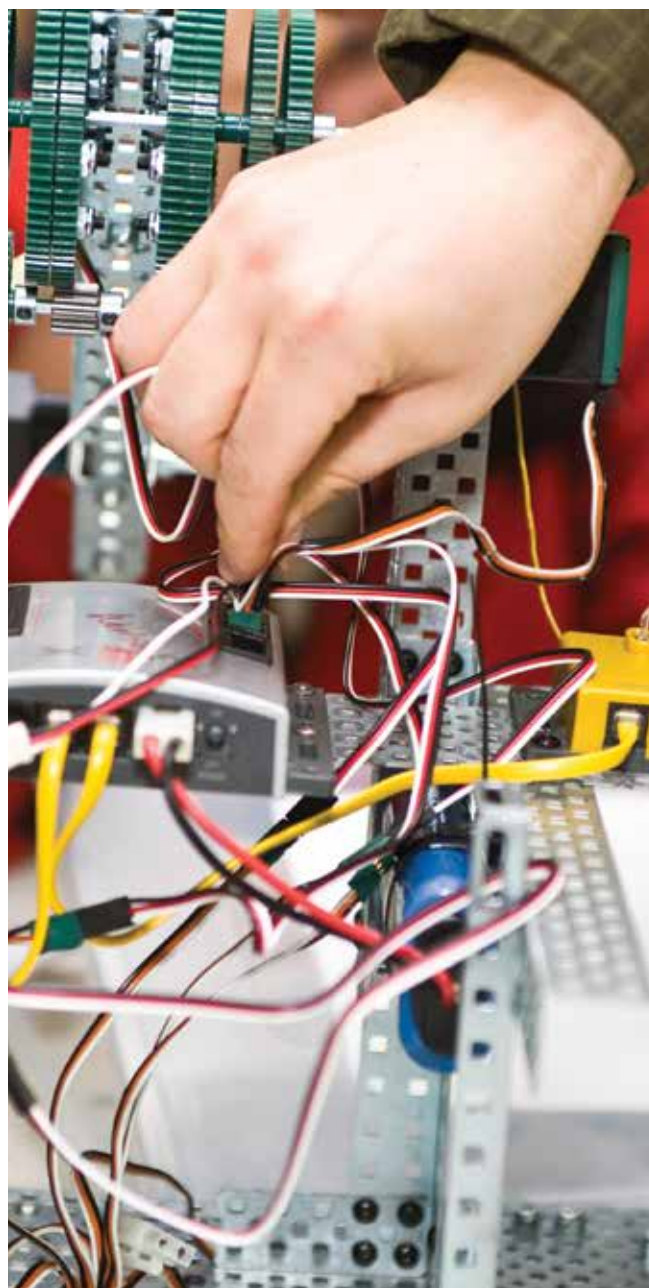
“My parents impacted me the most. They came from Mexico to escape poverty, and they worked so hard in Boulder County to provide my siblings and me with a stable life,” he says. “A lot of kids drop out, or after they graduate from high school, they don’t do much. I have this great opportunity.”

Although his path wasn’t always a straight one, Perez got his Associate’s Degree from Front Range Community College and is now a University of Colorado student – and Community Foundation intern. The opportunity he took advantage of was to be part of the I Have a Dream high school graduating class of 2012. **“I Have a Dream”** Boulder County is a drop-out prevention program for students from economically disadvantaged families. The Boulder County organization is one of the largest “I Have A Dream” affiliates in the country.

Find more information at: www.ihadboulder.org.

A Well-Educated Population

When it comes to educational attainment, Boulder County continues to outpace the state and the nation. A full 58 percent of County residents have a bachelor’s degree or higher. That’s compared with 37 percent of Colorado residents and 29 percent of U.S. residents.



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, 2013

High School Graduates

Boulder County 94%

Colorado 90%

US 86%

Bachelor's Degree or Higher

Boulder County 58%

Colorado 37%

US 29%

Graduate or Professional Degree

Boulder County 26%

Colorado 13%

US 11%

Source: American Community Survey



A Pot of Extra Money for Schools?

A controversial new funding stream will flow – or trickle – to Colorado schools thanks to the newly legalized recreational marijuana law. But there may be a statewide misperception that the money is significant, particularly compared with the millions of dollars in taxes being collected. **Municipalities have their own formulas on tax collection for recreational marijuana, but the school portions – built in by those who campaigned to legalize marijuana here – are relatively small. See Marijuana facts on page 60.**

There are two funding sources available to the schools through marijuana. One is a \$40 million capital improvement fund, which will be disbursed statewide for school buildings and structural improvements. That is, when it hits \$40 million. By mid-2015, it was only at about \$20 million according to the Colorado Department of Education.

The other tax source available to the schools is the portion of retail taxes at the state level that is passed along as health grants.

The programs those grants fund include a school nurse, and programs to educate students about substance abuse, suicide prevention and more. Boulder County school districts report that they will continue to apply for the grants. By mid-2015, St. Vrain had received \$96,650 and BVSD had received \$137,537, according to CDE.

City-level taxes on marijuana, which will constitute a bigger pot of money, may also eventually make their way into supporting education, although details are scant.

“The City of Boulder also intends to make education grants derived from the city’s tax on marijuana. They have not yet announced their plan or criteria for distribution of these funds,” says BVSD Grants Specialist Bee Valacek.

The City of Longmont doesn’t allow marijuana stores, so there are no city taxes there at this time. There are retailers with Longmont mailing addresses, but they are technically in unincorporated Boulder County.

The Persistent Gap

Public schools exist for all – for the rich, for the poor and for everyone in between. Our schools serve immigrants and the children of immigrants, and the children of residents whose families have lived in Boulder County for many generations. The schools serve children from stable homes as well as hundreds of homeless children every year.

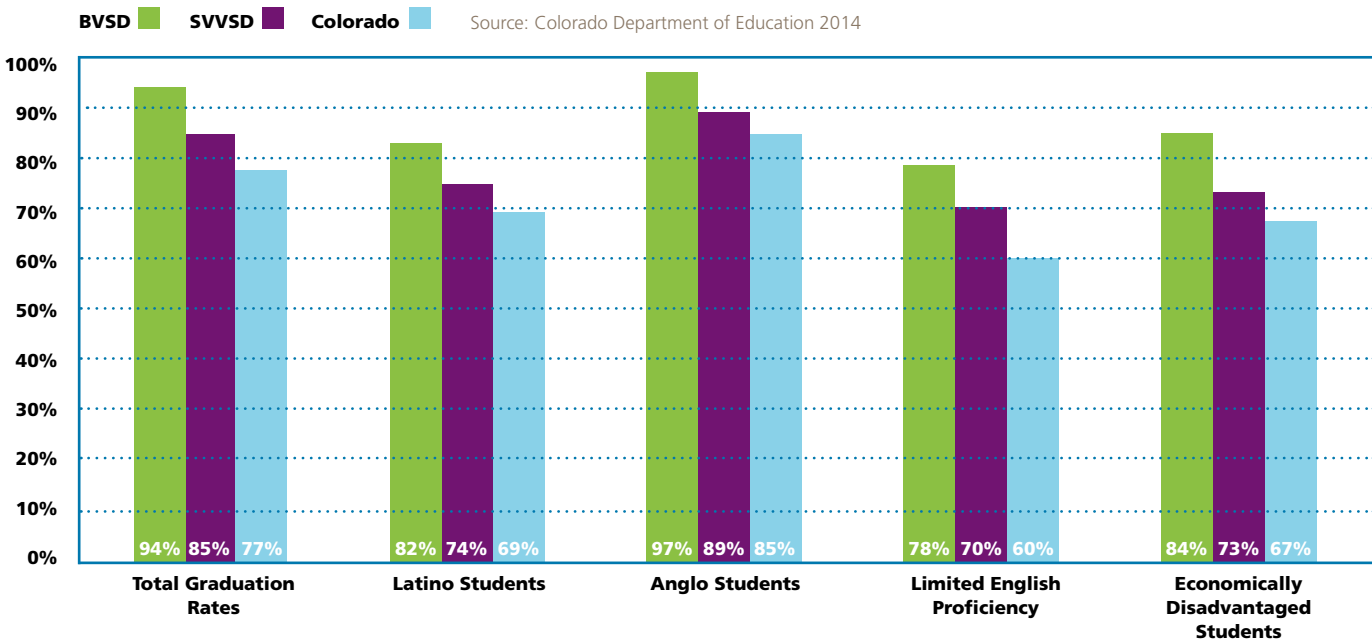
We celebrate the fact that many of our students are high-achievers who are set on a great path to an enriching and self-sufficient life. But too often, a child’s family economic status or ethnicity will play a statistically heavy role in his life. It starts before that child enters school, when his early

childhood educational opportunities fall behind. That path continues to his chance of becoming a proficient reader by the third grade. And that path is often all-but set when it comes to whether that child pursues higher education and even if he needs extra help in college once he gets there.

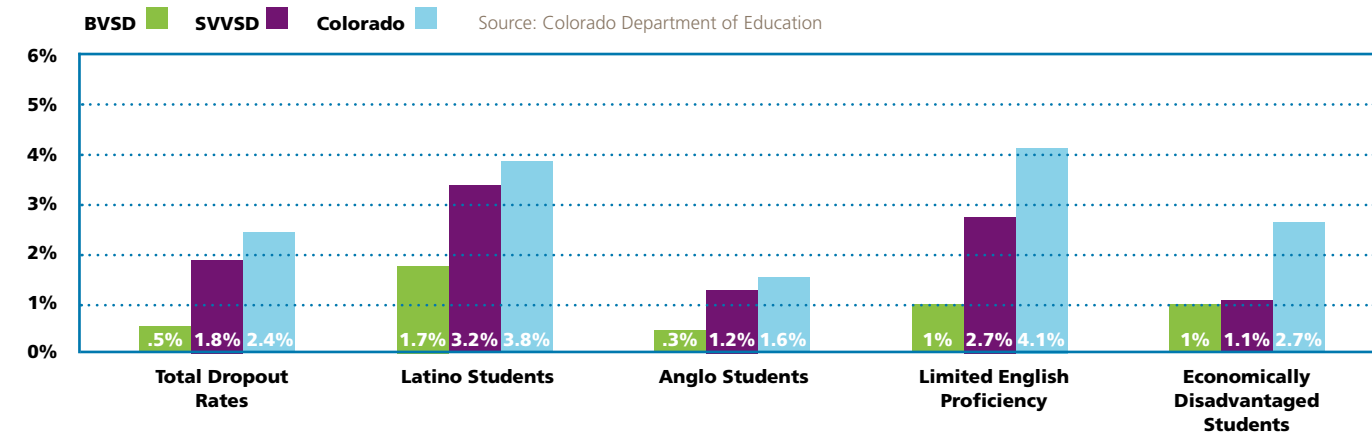
We wish we could report that ethnicity and finances of one’s family don’t play such an outsized role in public education, but they do.

See [Our School Readiness Initiative](#), page 36.

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS GRADUATING WITHIN FOUR YEARS OF STARTING HIGH SCHOOL



PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS GRADES 7-12 WHO DROPPED OUT IN 2013-2014 (INCLUDES ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS)



NUMBER OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEMBERS OF COLOR 2014-15
SCHOOL YEAR

BVSD 0

SVVSD 0

PERCENTAGES OF STUDENTS OF COLOR
FALL 2014

BVSD 30%

SVVSD 36%

PERCENTAGES OF TEACHERS OF COLOR
FALL 2014

BVSD 11%

SVVSD 8%

Source: Colorado Department of Education

Per Pupil State Finance
Act Funding

2015-2016 Year-Over-Year
Change

SVVSD	\$6,861	\$261
BVSD	\$6,942	\$263

Source: Colorado Department of Education

English Language Learners
(% of total students)

SVVSD BVSD

1995	3%	7%
2005	15%	10%
2015	15%	10%

Source: Colorado Department of Education



2012-2013 Advanced Placement Courses Completed

	Total Courses	Percent by Latinos	Percent by Anglos
BVSD	5,477	6.92%	79.73%
SVVD	2,498	13.45%	79.42%

Source: Colorado Department of Education

Educational experts focus heavily on third-grade reading skills, because it turns out to be pretty predictive.

As the adage goes: Little children learn to read, and older children read to learn. Everything academic that comes after the third grade – math, science, civics, history – requires literacy in order to grasp the concepts.

The disparity between the literacy and school achievement of children who are economically disadvantaged – and the divide between Latino children and Anglo children – presents a critical opportunity for improvement.

Percentage of Third Graders Scoring Proficient or Advanced on TCAP* Reading**

	2008-9	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
St. Vrain Valley School District						
Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL)	61%	64%	69%	65%	69%	65%
Non-FRL	86%	85%	87%	88%	88%	88%
Latino	60%	64%	70%	68%	67%	62%
Anglo	84%	81%	86%	86%	87%	85%
Total	78%	77%	81%	80%	81%	79%
Boulder Valley School District						
FRL	59%	52%	57%	58%	61%	57%
Non-FRL	92%	92%	93%	90%	91%	90%
Latino	55%	53%	58%	55%	63%	57%
Anglo	91%	90%	91%	90%	90%	89%
Total	85%	83%	84%	83%	84%	82%
Colorado						
FRL	56%	53%	57%	59%	59%	57%
Non-FRL	84%	82%	85%	85%	85%	84%
Latino	55%	51%	56%	59%	58%	57%
Anglo	83%	80%	83%	84%	80%	82%
Total	73%	70%	73%	74%	73%	72%

Source: Colorado Department of Education | *Transitional Colorado Assessment Program

**Includes children taking the Spanish-language version of the test



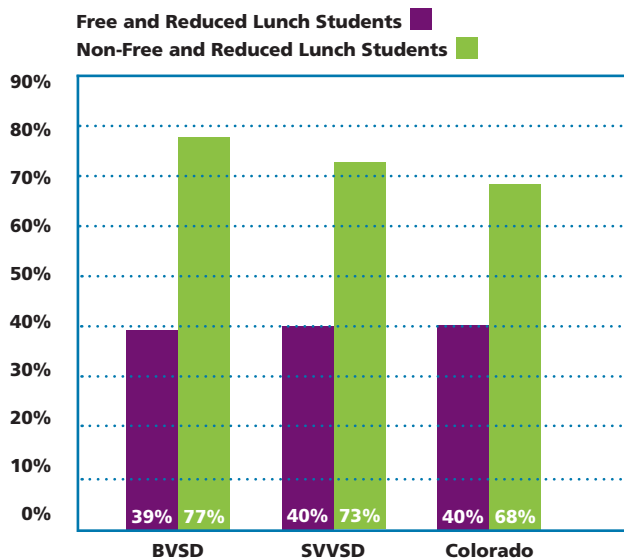
A Long-Term Impact

Why does achievement in K-12 matter so much? While previous economic recoveries were marked by improvement for most households, regardless of educational achievement levels, the recovery from the Great Recession has been mixed. **Instead of a rising tide lifting all boats, the recovery since 2009 only lifted some of the boats.**

While median earnings for Boulder County residents with college degrees continue to rise over time, residents with just a high-school degree saw their median earnings decline post-recession. **From 2006, before the recession, to 2013, those with a high school diploma or GED saw their median earnings – in non-inflation adjusted dollars – actually decline 7 percent.** Meanwhile, people with graduate and professional degrees saw their median incomes soar by 17 percent over the same time frame.

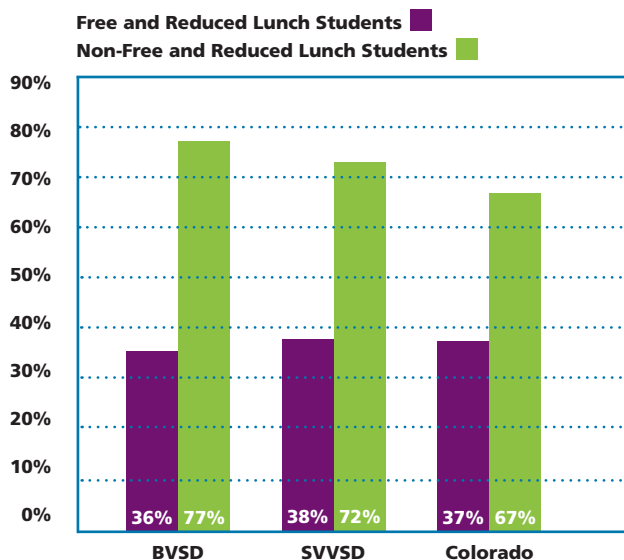
The achievement gap in K-12 education becomes a pervasive gap between the youth in Boulder County who pursue a higher degree, and those who don't. This almost always has meaningful and lasting impacts on earning potential over time.

TCAP MATH PROFICIENCY ACROSS GRADES 3-10, 2014



Source: Colorado Department of Education

TCAP WRITING PROFICIENCY ACROSS GRADES 3-10, 2014



Source: Colorado Department of Education

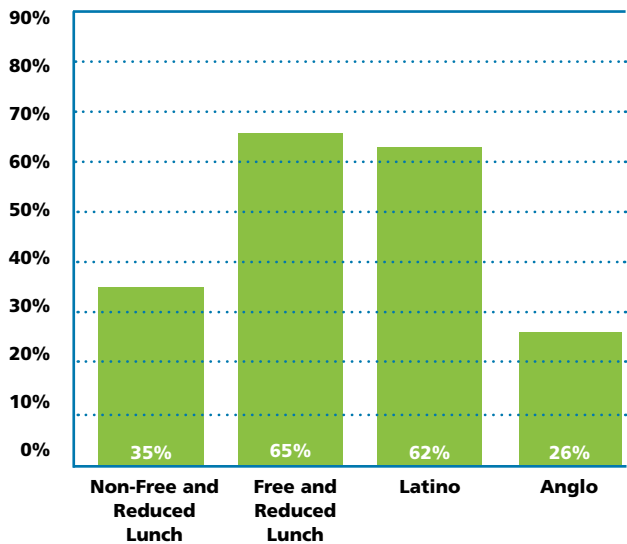
Student Absences (% of Students missing 0 to 9, 10 to 17, and 18+ school days) in 2014-2015

	0 to 9 Days	10 to 17 Days	18-plus Days
BVSD Free and Reduced Lunch Students	58%	26%	16%
BVSD Non-Free and Reduced Lunch Students	72%	22%	6%
SVVSD Free and Reduced Lunch Students	61%	24%	15%
SVVSD Non-Free and Reduced Lunch Students	75%	19%	7%

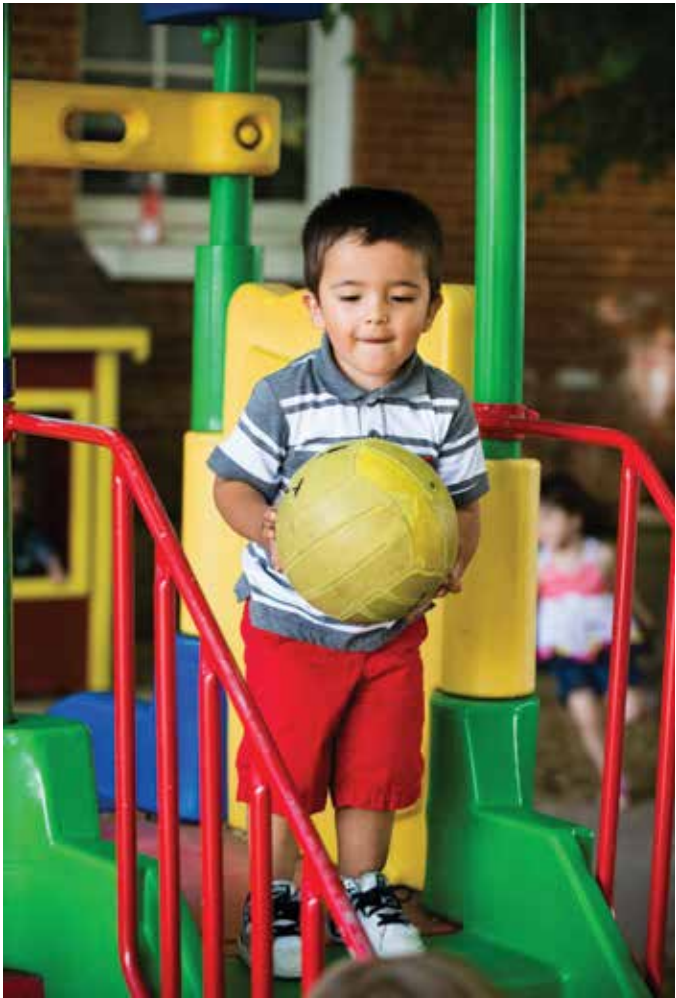
Source: Boulder Valley and St. Vrain School Districts



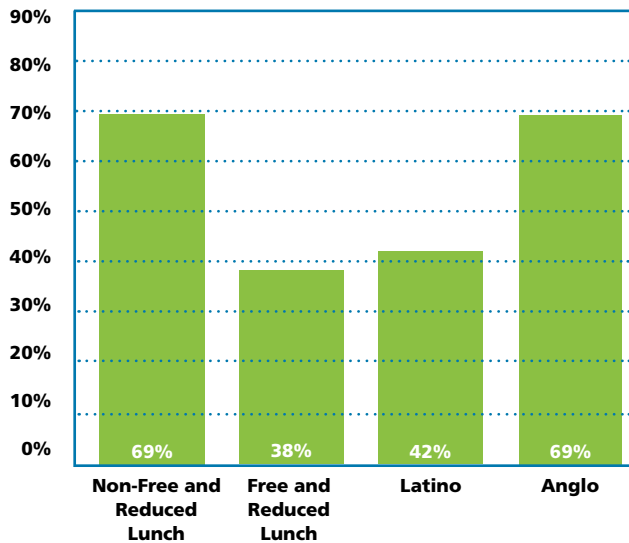
PERCENTAGE OF 2013 GRADUATES ENROLLING IN HIGHER EDUCATION REMEDIAL COURSES (ACROSS BOTH SCHOOL DISTRICTS)



Source: Colorado Department of Higher Education



PERCENTAGE OF 2013 GRADUATES PURSUING HIGHER EDUCATION (ACROSS BOTH SCHOOL DISTRICTS)



Source: Colorado Department of Higher Education



One County, Two Districts

Boulder County kids are served by two school districts: Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) and St. Vrain Valley School District (SVVSD).

Reflecting the enormous population growth in the City of Longmont and the Town of Erie, St. Vrain is also rapidly growing. So are attitudes about school funding in that district. While the Boulder Valley voters have been historically supportive of taxes and bonds to support their schools, St. Vrain until recent years had a difficult time getting school funding measures passed on the ballot. That reversed in recent years, including one in 2012, and the district has steadily been working to build schools to keep up with demand, improve school buildings, and critically: focusing on staffing, preschool and full-day kindergartens in all of its schools.

In 2014, the Boulder Valley Schools got a major boost when the voters passed a record-setting \$576.5 million bond program that will build a new school in Erie serving students in pre-K through 8th grade, replace three elementary schools, and improve every building in the district. The district also put a heavy emphasis on early childhood education during its campaign. The district told the voters it intends to expand full-day kindergarten and preschool programs. BVSD, and to a lesser extent the SVVSD, continue to lag behind the state in the number of kindergarteners attending a full day program, a statistic that is related to later school achievement. But things are clearly looking up, and both districts show impressive increases in the percentage of kindergarteners attending full-day programs.

Percentage of Kindergarteners in a Full-Day Program

	2013	2012	2008
BVSD	N/A*	23%	12%
SVVSD	64%	62%	49%
Colorado	70%	70%	54%

*Full-day kindergarten enrollment data were not available for the Boulder Valley and Cherry Creek school districts in 2013-2014 because these districts misreported full-day kindergarten participation to the Colorado Department of Education. – Kids Count Data Center

According to BVSD, 32% of kindergartners were enrolled in full-day programs in 2015. Excluding the tuition-based Community Montessori, it was 29% of the district's kindergartners.

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center, Boulder Valley School District

Boulder County School Districts At A Glance

	2014-2015 Number of Students	Percentage Increase 2004-2015	Fall 2015 Full Time Teachers	2015 Average Salary	2015 Pupil/ Teacher Ratio	Open Enrollment 2014-2015*	2014-2015 Free and Reduced Lunch	2014-2015 English Language Learners	Fall 2014 % Students of Color	Fall 2014 % Latino Students
St. Vrain Valley	31,076	40%	1,617.0	\$49,643.70	18.89	8,324	30%	15%	36%	29%
Boulder Valley	30,908	11%	1,690.8	\$65,999.66	18.13	11,204	20%	10%	30%	18%

Source: Colorado Department of Education | *Includes kids from outside and within the district



Getting a head start

Programs including Head Start, the Colorado Preschool Program and the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program help economically disadvantaged kids get quality early childhood education. But due to budget constraints, the programs don't reach every child.

There's some improvement. In 2010-11, at least 1,349 eligible children were not able to get into those programs because of budget and space constraints. In 2013, that number had declined to 711 eligible children. The Wilderness Center in Boulder County opened up to Head Start families in 2012, which helped; so does the improving economy. While we're coming off higher poverty rates during the recession, poverty here remains higher than its pre-recession era.

An estimated 16 percent of children under 5 years old were living below the poverty level in 2013; it was 23 percent in 2010.

*Source: The Community Need and Resource Assessment for Head Start Programs Serving Boulder County

Assistance for Child Care

Boulder County's Human Services Safety Net (HSSN) program is funded by a voter-approved property tax. Its predecessor (Temporary Safety Net) was first passed in 2010, and set to expire in 2015. In November 2014, voters supported extending that tax for 15 years. It is now set to expire in 2030.

The tax supports a wide array of programs – including child care assistance for some low-income children.

The Child Care Assistance Program is just one of those beneficiaries. Since 2009, the program has spent \$17.8 million on helping parents and caregivers with childcare expenses in the county.

The safety net tax allowed the county to raise the eligibility requirements for families, allowing parents with modest pay increases to stay in the program. As a result, 400 additional children were able to get high-quality child care between 2011 and 2014.

Daycare Costs

A December 2014 report by The Women's Foundation of Colorado, Qualistar Colorado and the Colorado Children's Campaign summarized child care costs in Colorado, and ranked us one of the five least affordable childcare states in the nation. Shockingly, it costs more to send a baby to daycare than it does to send a kid to college. Daycare costs for babies exceed the cost of CU's in-state tuition – an average of \$13,668 annually.

And parents of older children get no relief here. In Boulder County, it costs \$13,210 a year to care for a four-year-old, pre-kindergarten child. With two children in daycare, that would easily exceed \$26,000. That's not an easy tuition bill to pay for even educated parents: The median earnings for Boulder County residents with a bachelor's degree is \$45,122.



Guesswork and the Achievement Gap

"We're all working to make sure that Colorado's schools are inclusive and provide a world-class education for every student," said Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia in 2015. Garcia has spent much of his tenure raising awareness about the achievement gap statewide, and trying to improve Colorado's schools.

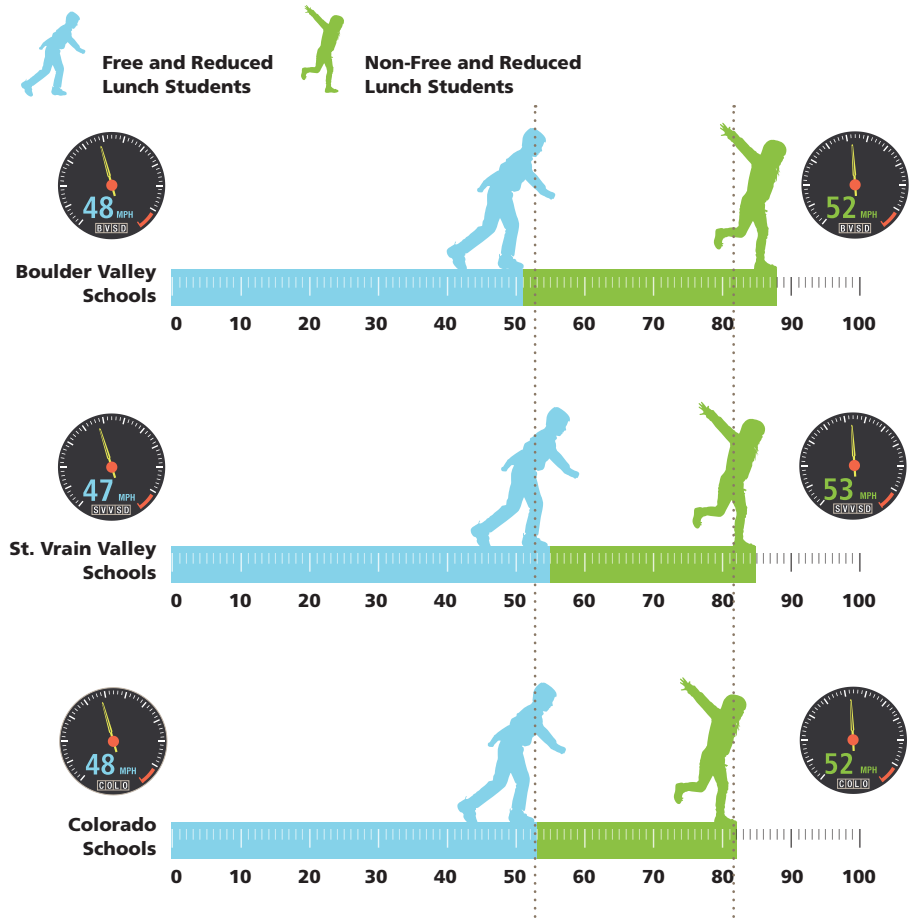
Groups including The Community Foundation rely on statistics to discover where we have areas to improve our community. One of those areas of improvement is illustrated every year by the disparity in outcomes on standardized tests. **Children growing up in economically disadvantaged homes and Latino children have a persistent achievement gap, which we work to address through programs and grantmaking.**

“These assessments help us to see if we are meeting the high standards we have set for ourselves in Colorado. Opting out just makes this work harder.”
– Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia



TCAP READING PROFICIENCY AND MEDIAN GROWTH RATES ACROSS GRADES 3-10 2014

The children represent the percentage of students in each group reading proficiently. The speedometers represent the rate at which students in each group learn. A rate of 50 would be equal to the Colorado median for all students.



Source: Colorado Department of Education

The Colorado Student Achievement Program (CSAP) and Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP) tests we've been tracking over time are giving way to the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) tests in our school districts. While education experts disagree on whether the measurements will be similar or far afield, a growing backlash – nationally and locally – against the standardized tests administered in schools is having an impact. The "opt out" movement will make measuring the achievement gap harder.

In the Boulder Valley School District alone, more than 1,200 kids opted out of the tests in 2014. Opt out rates of the TCAP and its predecessor were relatively minor. Parents and students, taking the position that the tests were too lengthy and took away from instruction time, found it easy to organize via social media, particularly Facebook, during the "opt out" activities in 2014 and 2015. There's a concern this trend will increase in the upcoming years – making the collection of accurate data more challenging.

The Colorado Legislature in 2015 passed a bill that reduced some testing at the high school level in response to parent and student protests. It kept in place standardized tests at the lower grade levels, including a new, observational assessment of kindergarten readiness as well as new early literacy assessments for students in grades 1-3.

"I do think we are on the front edge of data collection that will be really helpful to us," said Bruce Messinger, Superintendent of Boulder Valley School District.

Disparity in Degrees

Another measure of unequal outcomes is in the attainment of a college degree within four years of starting college.

Degrees include associate's degrees and higher – including bachelor's degrees.

The numbers don't tell the whole story. For instance, many students will go on to get a bachelor's degree or higher after four years of initially starting school. But the numbers do show stark differences between Anglo and Latino students. Boulder County Latinos have a lower rate of gaining a degree within four years when compared to the rest of the state, according to the Colorado Department of Higher Education.

College Degrees*				
	2009	2009	2010	2010
	Anglo	Latino	Anglo	Latino
BVSD	35%	12%	32%	16%
SVVSD	32%	8%	32%	12%
Colorado	31%	19%	31%	19%
*At least one post-secondary degree within four years of starting college				
Source: Colorado Department of Higher Education, 2015				

TRENDS @ 20

In 2004, 14 percent of BVSD students and 19 percent of SVVSD students participated in the federal free and reduced-lunch program. In 2015, 20 percent of BVSD students and 30 percent of SVVSD students participated in the free and reduced-lunch program.

In 1998, 58 percent of Boulder Valley and 71 percent of St. Vrain Valley Latinos graduated on time. In 2014, 82 percent of Boulder Valley and 74 percent of St. Vrain Valley Latinos graduated on time.

In 2000, 52 percent of the county's residents 25 and older had a bachelor's degree or higher. In 2013, that cohort had grown to 58 percent.

In 2007, the average teacher's salary in the St. Vrain Valley was \$45,483. In 2015, it was \$49,643.70. In 2007, the average teacher's salary in Boulder Valley was \$53,223. In 2015, it was \$65,999.66.

Feeling Inspired?

- **Support** ballot measures that help to fund schools, particularly early childhood education.
- **Volunteer** and support summer learning programs. Volunteer to read to children at a preschool or daycare.
- **Offer** to be a mentor at an area public school.



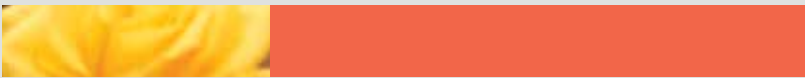
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Qualistar Colorado
Colorado Children's Campaign



EL PASO

THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Maria Guadalupe



Our School Readiness Initiative

Connecting Parents and Community Leaders
to Transform Early Learning

We know everyone does better when every child succeeds.

We also know that children in poverty are less likely to succeed than their peers who have access to more opportunities. In fact, Boulder County has one of the state's widest achievement gaps. And too many Latino children fall into these gaps.

That's why we work with civic leaders, parents and residents to ensure our systems promote success for every student, starting as early as possible.

We also work at the grassroots level with Latino parents of young children to ensure they have the skills, knowledge and voice to help their children arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed.

BY CHRIS BARGE

Director, School Readiness Initiative
The Community Foundation

Our School Readiness Initiative Sprang From a Sense of Urgency

Like many community leaders, we were troubled that children growing up in poverty didn't fare any better in Boulder County than they did around the state, despite our tremendous local resources and successful track record with middle and upper income kids. We knew the biggest return on investment long-term was investing in our community's most vulnerable children while they were as young as possible.

And so we made grants to nonprofits working hard to close the achievement gap. We raised awareness about the importance of investing early. We supported ballot initiatives funding early learning.

We convened leaders in education, nonprofits, government and faith organizations. We facilitated the creation of a Community Solutions Action Plan for Early Learning. We brought in parenting classes that had proven successful in other parts of the country.

This was all very effective on a systems level. Between 2010 and 2015, schools across Boulder County expanded their free preschool enrollments for children in poverty by 74 percent, from 511 slots to 888. Full-day kindergarten, which was already available at all 31 elementary schools in the St. Vrain Valley, doubled in Boulder Valley from four to eight schools, with plans to offer it in the coming years at all of the District's 34 elementary schools. And leadership coalitions across the county have strengthened and emerged to help ensure families have the support they need to raise thriving children, starting at birth.



The efforts are starting to pay off. Latino and low-income kindergartners in the St. Vrain Valley School District, which includes Longmont, Niwot, and Lyons, are arriving to school more prepared in early literacy, leaders there say. And a similar trend is emerging in Boulder Valley School District, where Superintendent Bruce Messinger said he expects to see steady improvement once a new observational assessment of kindergarten readiness is fully implemented in the next couple of years.

"We continue to strengthen in the community the whole early childhood effort," Messinger said. "With each year we're getting it figured out. It just feels like we're heading in the right direction."

Still, at The Community Foundation, we saw that something was missing.

Parents in poverty did not yet have a seat at the tables where policy decisions affecting them were being made.

As we contemplated how to change this, national leaders in the field of community foundations issued a call to action saying that, even as community foundations around the country develop new approaches to solving problems and meeting challenges, "a critical element – resident engagement – is largely missing." Their report defined resident engagement as involving "active, meaningful participation by the people who live in the neighborhoods where change is occurring."





Five of us from The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County – including our president and three trustees – joined a cohort of eight community foundations from across the country in a series of three programs focused on resident engagement.

“As we came back from that first meeting and described what we had learned, it was very clear that we had left out a big piece of resolving this,” said Community Foundation President Josie Heath. “We had this ‘ah-ha!’ moment. The concept of resident engagement hadn’t been on our radar screen – and who were those residents? Of course, they were the Latino parents.”

And so our work took on a new focus: connecting our community leaders to the families they wanted to impact most; and helping parents with young children find their voices as community leaders.

We immediately organized forums in Boulder, Lafayette and Longmont. Each forum drew about 60-80 Latino parents, to discuss how more parents could be encouraged to support their children’s learning, as early as possible. Richard Garcia, a Community Foundation trustee with 40 years of experience in Latino parent engagement and early childhood education, moderated. We folded the input we received into the emerging Community Solutions Action Plan, so that policymakers could have access to the wisdom of the parents they were trying to support.

But still we dreamed of a day when far more Latino parents themselves sat at the leadership tables where decisions were made impacting them and their neighbors. So at the

Special Report to the Community

next institute, we developed a plan to build the voice of Latino parents of young children.

We hosted another round of Latino Parent Engagement Forums in Boulder, Lafayette and Longmont – our county’s three major Latino population areas. This time we invited leaders of organizations that serve Latino parents. We asked them how to better engage Latino parents around early learning.

Five big ideas emerged:

1. Recruit School Readiness Coordinators in each city to help do this work, and compensate them for it.
2. Build an authentic Early Learning Awareness Campaign for and by Latino parents.
3. Build Latino parent leadership and advocacy on early learning.
4. Promote Latino parent skill building.
5. Raise funds to help sustain these activities.

With these suggestions guiding us, we developed and implemented a new program that we call ELPASO – Engaged Latino Parents Advancing School Outcomes. The program reached more than 700 Latino parents of young children in its first year.

Our sense of urgency remains around closing the early learning gaps for our county’s most vulnerable children and families. The most pressing challenge now is making sure parents, leaders and the broader community continue to make the connections necessary to ensure success for every child, as early as possible.

“One of the best and most powerful ways everyone can help is word-of-mouth and dialogue on how important education is to our city, our state, our nation and our world,” said St. Vrain Valley Superintendent Don Haddad. “It sounds like a little, but it’s a lot.”



Special Report to the Community

New Community Foundation Program Makes Connections That Change Lives

Every day in Longmont, Ere Juarez knocks on someone's door.

She's looking for Latino parents interested in bilingual children's books and some conversation about their kids.

"We need to believe," said Juarez. "We need to never give up, because you never know when you'll meet someone with your same mission to help others."

Juarez's mission is to connect Latino parents to the resources they'll need to ensure their children are flourishing by the time they arrive at kindergarten. She is one of three School Readiness Coordinators working for The Community Foundation's new school readiness program, ELPASO – Engaged Latino Parents Advancing School Outcomes.

She and her counterparts in Lafayette and Boulder connect parents they meet to resources like preschool, Head Start and parenting classes. In their first year, they reached 700 such parents. Its guiding philosophy: "Don't do anything about us without us."

They also search constantly for parents who share their passion for early childhood education and who have natural leadership



abilities. When they find such parents, they recruit them for a year-long volunteer and leadership development program. The parent leaders, in turn, hold meetings with neighbors in their homes to share what they have learned with other parents of young children.

Juarez recruited Longmont parent Maria de los Angeles Perez to the cause. After training with other local leaders, Perez gathered in her apartment three young couples expecting their first children to learn about early cognitive development.

"I want a different future for our kids," said Perez. "We are a strong community. We want to learn and we want to help."

To learn more, visit www.commfound.org/ready or contact Chris Barge, Director, School Readiness Initiative, at 303-442-0436 or Chris@commfound.org.

School Readiness Initiative Highlights:

2008-2012

Launched and successfully completed \$4 million Community Trust Initiative, which permanently doubled the responsive grant-making endowment of The Community Foundation and raised \$1 million to help close the achievement gap through a School Readiness Initiative.

Summer, 2009

Granted \$90,000 to PASO (Providers Advancing School Outcomes), which trains immigrant Latina day-care providers in early childhood education with the goal of bridging the achievement gap in education between Latino and Anglo students. PASO leveraged the funding to secure additional, larger grants that have helped it quadruple in size.

Spring, 2010

Launched "Ready.Set. Learn," a vibrant public campaign about the critical need to get our Boulder County kids into active early learning.



Fall 2010

Funded the successful "Yes on 3A" mill levy override campaign, which raised \$23 million in additional annual funding for Boulder Valley Schools and earmarked \$5 million annually for expanding preschool and full-day kindergarten in low-income neighborhoods.



Leaders across Boulder County continue their collaborative work to improve early learning outcomes for all children. We continue to help push this work forward in various venues, with a vigilant eye on opportunities to connect the work directly to the families our local leaders are trying to support.

Examples of this work include:

- Bright EYES, a coalition of providers, advocates and consumers dedicated to early childhood collaboration and alignment in greater Longmont. Current projects include The Mayor's Book Club, an Early Learning Summit, a reading league and parent education.
- Boulder's Dream Big Initiative, a group of community stakeholders committed to eliminating the opportunity

Special Report to the Community

and achievement gaps so that by 2040, all children in Boulder County are succeeding academically and reaching their full potential.

- The Raising of America Partnership in Boulder County, a group of partners committed to engaging the community in supporting families and young children through the Raising of America documentary series. The series explores how a strong start for all children leads to better outcomes regarding learning, earning, physical health and mental health.
- Foothills United Way, which in 2015 announced new strategic priorities, including an increased focus on strengthening families for early childhood success.
- The Early Childhood Council of Boulder County, which provides professional development and collaborative support to nonprofit organizations, government agencies and child care providers.



Fall 2012

Funded and provided staff support for the successful "Yes on 3A" mill levy override campaign in St. Vrain Valley, raising an additional \$14.8 million annually. Much of the funding is being used to expand preschool offerings.

Also, **granted** \$50,000 to capital improvement projects at Wilderness Early Learning Center and Family Learning Center.



2013

Hired a full-time director for our School Readiness Initiative. Convened leaders from a variety of sectors across Boulder County to develop a "Community Solutions Action Plan" for improving early learning outcomes.

2014-2015

Developed and launched ELPASO – Engaged Latino Parents Advancing School Outcomes – a new Community Foundation program aimed at building the Latino parent voice around early learning.

Continued support for collaborative efforts to improve early learning and parent engagement county-wide.

Special Report to the Community

School Readiness “Absolutely Front and Center” for Boulder Valley

The Boulder Valley School District continues to expand and improve preschool and full-day kindergarten opportunities, with a goal of ensuring success for every student as early as possible.

“We’re very committed to this – it’s one of our top priorities,” said Superintendent Bruce Messinger. “This is absolutely front and center for us.”

Voters in 2014 approved a \$576 million bond – the largest in Colorado history. A portion of the funding will be spent on building enough new classrooms so that every student can attend full-day kindergarten. This would represent a major increase from 2015, when only the eight highest-poverty schools of the district’s 34 elementary schools offered full-day.

Funding for full-day kindergarten teachers would cost approximately \$4.5 million annually, and Boulder Valley is still working on how to fund that. “Our preference would be full-day, free K, funded by the legislature,” Messinger said. Other options include finding savings in the current budget, or asking voters to pass a local property tax increase.



Bond money will also be spent on new preschool classrooms. Boulder Valley in 2015 offered preschool to 1,081 students at 18 of its schools in addition to five nonprofit community preschools. Of those enrolled, 455 attended tuition-free, based on financial need; 295 attended tuition-free based on special educational needs; 71 attended on sliding-scale, need-based scholarships; and parents of the remaining 260 paid full tuition.

New school readiness and early literacy assessments will in coming years tell the story of whether these and other efforts are helping to close the achievement gap. The first comprehensive reliable, statewide, kindergarten readiness data will be released publicly after the 2016-2017 school year, according to district officials.

Once the data are in, “we should see kindergarten outcomes improve,” Messinger said.



St. Vrain School Readiness Efforts Paying Off

Early learning investments in the St. Vrain Valley are paying off with success for more Latino and low-income students at an earlier age. "I'm seeing a substantial improvement in the preparedness of kids who go to kindergarten," said Regina Renaldi, Assistant Superintendent of Priority Programs.

Kindergartners qualifying for free- and reduced-lunch improved in 2014-15 to 89 percent proficient on early literacy assessments, up from 87 percent proficient the year prior. Latino kindergartners improved from 89 percent to 90 percent proficient in the same time period. And Latino kindergartners qualifying for free- and reduced-lunch improved from 44 percent to 56 percent proficient.

For more than a decade, St. Vrain Valley Schools have made strategic early learning investments.

Now there are preschools and full-day kindergarten classrooms in every elementary school, with more on the way each year.

This progress has come despite significant challenges.

In the last TRENDS Report, St. Vrain leaders planned to enroll up to 535 three- and four-year-olds on free- and reduced-lunch into preschool programs starting in the fall of 2013, up from just 100 in 2005. And they aimed to increase that number to more than 700 slots for children growing up in poverty by 2017.

In reality, "the bottom fell out" of preschool enrollment efforts with the floods of September 2013, according to Connie Syferd, Assistant Superintendent of Student Achievement. By 2015, St. Vrain had filled 433 of its 450 available free preschool slots for children in poverty.

District leaders maintain their goal of 100 percent access to high-quality preschool for every four-year-old in St. Vrain who needs it.

"We are trying to grow as much as we can in that capacity," said Superintendent Don Haddad. Last year St. Vrain added a STEM early childhood wing to Mountain View Elementary School. And the district plans to ask voters to pass a bond soon that would include a new pre-K-8th grade school in Erie, while expanding Blue Mountain, Eagle Crest and Mead elementary schools.

Meanwhile, early learning partnerships have emerged all over Longmont.

Most recently, the district partnered with local health providers and the City of Longmont to help launch a new reading initiative it developed, called "Small Talk - Big Results." Designed for children from birth to age three, the program encourages parents to build language awareness and reinforce reading success for their kids.

A new kindergarten parent survey initiated in the fall of 2014 is beginning to shed light on the early learning experiences of the district's kindergartners. Early results indicate that at least 75 percent of kindergartners attended preschool the preceding year.

More and more "wrap-around care" is being offered to preschoolers so that working families can drop their children off for a full day even though the preschool portion is half-day.

For the first time starting in fall 2015, the district planned to provide snacks free of charge in all preschool classrooms. The aim is to help provide consistency in all children's lives, including those who experience food insecurity at home.

And leaders are stepping up their parent engagement efforts, recognizing that direct contact with families is critical.







Our Health & Human Services

This remains a very fit and healthy community – but what about the next generation?

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Report Card

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Youth Risk

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Local filmmaker Ryan Van Duzer, a Boulder native who lives in the City of Boulder, can often be seen riding his bike around town, dressing up in costumes for the Boulder 10K road race, or simply running the extensive local trails system.

Boulder County's recreational opportunities are just one reason our home places high on lists ranking health.

"Boulder is an absolute playground of endless outdoor activities. I've lived here all my life and I never get bored running on the nearby trails, biking up and down the mountains, climbing on rocks, participating in local races, etc. If you like being outside and enjoying everything Mother Nature has to offer (except ocean sports), this is the place!" Van Duzer says.

Boulder County and Colorado as a whole tend to have good health outcomes, but here – just like our economy and education – results are mixed and opportunities for improvement abound.



You are not imagining all those athletic-looking people out there: Colorado ranks No. 1 with the lowest adult obesity rate in the country at 20 percent. While that rate is a winning number in 2015, it is sobering to note that the same obesity rate would have put us as the most obese state decades ago.

And our kids are just, interestingly, nowhere near as fit as the adults. We're a paltry No. 23 on the childhood obesity ranking: Our rate is 14.2 percent.

Are other "fit" states seeing the same disparity? No.

The No. 1 state for lowest childhood obesity is Oregon, with a 9.6 percent rate. The state that comes in last is Mississippi, with a 22 percent rate.

But Oregon is a state that has healthy adult outcomes, and Mississippi is a state with unhealthy adult outcomes. Colorado: Healthy adults when it comes to weight, unhealthy kids.

That is partly a reflection of our fast-growing poverty rate for children in Colorado. Economically disadvantaged children, like their grownup counterparts, have a higher rate of obesity. And children who are overweight or obese are more likely to struggle with weight-related illnesses for a lifetime than their non-overweight peers. Those illnesses include diabetes and heart disease.

Source: Colorado Health Foundation Health Card

Healthy Ratings

According to the Colorado Health Foundation, Colorado enjoys a healthy adult population, including our rapidly growing community of senior citizens.

But it's a mixed bag:

Healthy adults earned a "B+" from the Colorado Health Foundation in 2015, up from a "B" in 2014. Healthy aging was graded an "A-," up from a "B+" in 2014. Adolescents stayed static year-over-year with a "B." Healthy children and healthy beginnings also remained unchanged year-over-year with an unimpressive "C."

Adult Health Data

Risk Factor	Boulder County	Colorado
Diagnosed with diabetes	6%	7%
Current smoker	12%	18%
Currently have health insurance	81%	79%
Ever had colonoscopy (ages 50 and over)	68%	67%
Had clinical breast exam and mammogram in the past 2 years (women 50 and older)	60%	63%
Ever had a Pap smear (women 18 and older)	94%	94%
Ever had asthma	13%	13%
Any leisure time physical activity	89%	83%
Ate less than one serving of vegetables daily	12%	19%
Overweight, BMI** 25.0 to 29.9	32%	36%
Obese, BMI** > 30	16%	20%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, CDPHE 2011-2012

How Boulder County Residents Rank Their Health

	General Population	Anglo	Latino	<\$25K Income	\$25K-\$50K Income	\$50K+ Income
Poor/Fair	12%	8%	32%	24%	20%	4%
Good/Excellent	88%	92%	68%	76%	80%	96%

Source: 2011-2012 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, CDPHE

Poor Mental Health Days in the Last Month, Boulder County

	General Population	Anglo	Latino	<\$25K Income	\$25K-\$50K Income	\$50K+ Income	Women	Men
0	64%	64%	68%	51%	64%	69%	59%	69%
1-7	23%	25%	15%	26%	25%	22%	27%	19%
8+	13%	12%	17%	23%	11%	9%	14%	12%

Source: 2011-2012 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, CDPHE

Medicaid coverage has increased quite a bit in the past two years. That is mostly – but not wholly – due to the expansion of Medicaid to states that accepted the funds made available by the Affordable Care Act. Colorado was among the states that implemented the Medicaid expansion.

As of May 2015, over 58,000 people in Boulder County are accessing either Medicaid or CHP+ (Children's Health Plan Plus), according to Boulder County Department of Housing and Human Services. And 12,500 individuals were enrolled in the state's new marketplace, created under the ACA.

According to the Colorado Health Institute's 2015 report on the impact of the ACA in Colorado: 59 percent of Coloradans were on employer-sponsored plans, compared with 9.3 percent on Medicare and 7.3 percent on Medicaid.

Boulder's individual insurance rates in 2015 increased 0.42 percent compared with the state increase of 0.71 percent; its small-group insurance rates went up 2.6 percent compared with the statewide increase of 2.54 percent.

Medicaid enrollment in Colorado surpassed 1 million people in 2015. The state expanded its Medicaid eligibility to up to 142 percent of the poverty level, and 195 percent for pregnant women.

In Boulder County, that means more people have access to health care – and health care providers, including Mental Health Partners and Clinica Family Health Services, have reported that they are more likely post-ACA to be reimbursed for the care they give. **The county's Housing and Human Services Department reports in 2014, 8 percent of county residents were uninsured - compared to the U.S. rate of 13 percent. In 2013, 14 percent of the county's residents were uninsured.**



2015 COLORADO HEALTH REPORT CARD

Healthy Beginnings	C
Healthy Children	C
Healthy Adolescents	B
Healthy Adults	B+
Healthy Aging	A-

Source: Colorado Health Foundation

FACTS:

Obesity in Boulder County's Low-income children:

- 24 percent of Boulder County children ages 2-5 enrolled in the federal program WIC* are overweight or obese.
- 22 percent of Colorado children ages 2-5 enrolled in WIC are overweight or obese.

*Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children

Source: Status of Children in Boulder County 2014

For more information

Boulder County Health Compass is a resource maintained by Boulder County Public Health. There are a number of indicators the public can research there, including updated health data, demographics and disparities. For more information or to build a report, go to bouldercountyhealthcompass.org.

Monthly Average Boulder County Medicaid Growth 2010-2014

	Clients Age 20 and Under (EPSDT)	Clients Age 21 and Over	Total Clients -All Ages
2010	12,010	7,745	19,755
2011	13,421	9,076	22,497
2012	14,305	9,704	24,009
2013	15,641	11,194	26,835
2014	19,153	21,980	41,104

Source: Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF)



The great news – for young people, for babies, for public health, and for the economy as a whole – is that the declining teen pregnancy rate remains a local success story. In Boulder County, far fewer teenagers are having babies.

Births to Latina teens have also declined significantly over the past decade; however, they still make up a larger percentage of teen births than births to Anglo teen moms here. Boulder County has consistently had lower teen birth rates than the state. The state has benefited from a program that funds intrauterine devices (IUDs) for low-income teenagers. That program remains under threat from groups and legislators who object to that form of contraception and to providing teens with birth control, and funds for the program were set to run out in 2015 after it failed to be reauthorized by state legislators. Its supporters have vowed to continue fighting for the program in the future.

Why care so much about teens and smoking, considering the youth smoking rate has been declining for years? According to the American Lung Association, a full **70 percent** of adults who smoke started before they turned **18 years old**.

Healthy Kids, Mixed Results

The Healthy Kids Colorado Survey is the local name for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Survey. One positive point is low rates for early risk-taking. Kids under the age of 13 are, generally speaking, unlikely to have sex, smoke cigarettes or drink alcohol. The survey changed considerably in 2013 to be statewide; earlier county results are not comparable.

Child Health Data

	Boulder County	Colorado
Children 2-14 Overweight or Obese	21%	28%
Children 2-14 Underweight	10%	10%
Children 1-14 with Fair to Poor Teeth Condition	5%	7%
Children 1-14 with Asthma	7%	8%

Source: 2013 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Disparate Outcomes for LGBTQ Youth

While much of the news for teens and risk-taking is good, The 2013 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey showed that LGBTQ* high schoolers reported higher rates of dating violence, including sexual assault, than their straight peers.

In addition:

- The percentage of teens who reported being bullied on school property showed that 17 percent of straight teens reported being bullied; for LGBTQ teens it was 30 percent.
- The percentage of teens who reported being bullied electronically: 14 percent straight teens, 27 percent LGBTQ teens.
- The percentage of teens who reported self-harm (which includes actions like cutting, but not suicide): 12 percent straight teens; 48 percent LGBTQ teens.
- Reported suicidal thoughts: 11 percent straight teens, 37 percent of LGBTQ teens.
- Reported suicide attempts: 4 percent of straight teens, 19 percent of LGBTQ teens.

*Since 2003, the Boulder County survey has asked local high school students about sexual orientation, stratifying results by heterosexual or lesbian, gay, bisexual or questioning for students who reply "not sure" to sexual orientation. Starting in 2013, the Boulder County questionnaire clarified to students that the "q" stands for questioning. The Boulder County results are not comparable to state or other counties' results because "questioning" is uniquely defined locally.

The Healthy Kids Colorado Survey differs from The Community Foundation's common use of "LGBT" to define the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.



18% of Boulder County high-schoolers reported binge drinking.
Binge drinking is defined as more than five drinks in a row.

Early Initiation – high school teens who reported taking initial risky behaviors before age 13

	Anglo	Latino	Straight*	LGBQ	Total surveyed
Drank alcohol, more than a few sips	11.8%	22.1%	12.9%	23.0%	13.8%
Had sex	1.5%	6.0%	2.3%	5.7%	2.6%
Smoked a cigarette	3.7%	9.3%	4.2%	11.7%	5.0%
Tried marijuana	4.6%	10.6%	5.3%	13.3%	6.0%

Source: The Health Kids Colorado Survey 2013

*Survey refers to straight teens as “heterosexual”

Emotional Wellness

	Anglo	Latino	Straight*	LGBQ	Total surveyed
Feeling sad/hopeless for two weeks	21%	27%	20%	47%	23%
Intentionally self-injured	15%	18%	12%	48%	15%
Seriously considered suicide	13%	15%	12%	37%	14%
Attempted suicide	4%	8%	4%	19%	5%

Source: The Health Kids Colorado Survey 2013 *Survey refers to straight teens as “heterosexual”

Bullying in the Last 12 Months

	Anglo	Latino	Straight	LGBQ	Total surveyed
Bullied on school property	19.7%	17.2%	17.7%	30.1%	18.9%
Because of race or ethnicity*	6.3%	15.6%	8.4%	15.3%	9.2%
Because thought to be LGBQ*	7.0%	7.3%	4.9%	31.4%	7.1%
Electronically bullied	16.3%	12.4%	14.3%	27.2%	15.1%

Source: The Health Kids Colorado Survey 2013 *Question on these two categories phrased as “teased or name-called”

Overall Teen Fertility* Rate, 15-19

	Colorado	Boulder County
2001	45.6	27.6
2003	41.4	19.4
2005	40.8	20.7
2007	40.2	19.1
2009	37.4	17.8
2011	28	11.5
2013	22.3	8.8

*Fertility rates are births per 1,000 teenaged girls

Source: Colorado Health Information Dataset

Number of Births to Teen Moms in Boulder County

	Latinas	Anglos
2001	160	128
2003	124	85
2005	147	79
2007	136	70
2009	108	73
2011	90	37
2013	70	28

Source: Colorado Health Information Dataset

Percentage of Teen Births to Latina Moms

	Boulder County	Colorado
2001	53%	50%
2003	58%	53%
2005	63%	56%
2007	63%	56%
2009	55%	55%
2011	70%	53%
2013	68%	54%

Source: Colorado Health Information Dataset

The St. Vrain Valley School District in 2015 says it will no longer participate in the Youth Risk Behavior survey because it plans to start its own version. It also said it will share the data it collects with the community. Groups including The Community Foundation will continue to monitor any data that is released.

Vaccination Rates

Colorado has a high rate of unvaccinated children, for a variety of reasons, one of which is that public schools make it easy for parents to exempt their children from vaccines against measles, polio, whooping cough and more. In this state, a valid exemption excuse is “personal beliefs,” not just religious or medical reasons. The majority of Colorado parents who excuse their children from vaccines use personal belief exemptions. Some of those beliefs may well be rooted in the now-discredited study linking vaccines to autism.

Vaccines were a hot topic in 2015 following a measles outbreak that started at California’s Disneyland before spreading to many other states, including Colorado. In the third world, the measles are a mass killer of children. Until recently, they were all but eradicated in the United States.

Efforts to boost the use of life-saving vaccines – not to mention, the herd immunity* required for babies and others who are unable to be vaccinated due to age or medical reasons – have stalled as the political will to fight against the personal belief exemption hasn’t garnered enough support. But we do have a new law that requires the schools to report on how many of their students are exempted from vaccines.

*Herd immunity is when a significant portion of a population is vaccinated against a disease, providing a level of protection even for those unable to be immunized because the disease is less likely to be present in that population.

BVSD Schools with a 20 Percent or Higher Vaccine Exemption Rate	
Heatherwood Elementary	20%
Manhattan Middle	21%
Nederland Mid/Sr (6-8)	24%
Flatirons Elementary	25%
Community Montessori	26%
Horizons K-8 (K-5)	30%
New Vista High	30%
Nederland Elementary	31%
Horizons K-8 (6-8)	35%
Jamestown Elementary	50%
Boulder Community School of Integrated Studies	51%
Gold Hill Elementary	82%

In the St. Vrain Valley, the only school with a 20 percent or higher exemption rate was: St. Vrain Montessori at 31 percent. Lyons Elementary came close, with a 19 percent rate.

We’ve excluded home-school programs from these data.



The Boulder County Domestic Violence Research Report was discontinued in 2010 due to a loss of funding. The program tracked how many children were present during domestic violence for which law enforcement was called. It was between 546 and 580 children in 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010. No figures are available post-2010 county-wide, but children were present at 40 percent of the incidents police responded to in Boulder County, according to the Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence. That percentage does not account for how many children are present at each event, however.

Longmont Police Department’s Domestic Violence Unit began tracking data for crimes committed in the city. For the second half of 2014, there were 370 incidents, with 318 children present. In 2015, through the first week of May, there were 230 incidents, with 124 children present.

Domestic Violence			
Year	Charged Cases	Children Present	Child Abuse Charges
2004	1,147	580	163
2006	1,135	568	170
2008	1,229	566	165
2010	1,046	546	156
2012	1,150	N/A	129
2014	1,256	N/A	158

Sources: The Boulder County District Attorney’s office (2012-2014) and the Boulder County Domestic Violence Research Report, which was discontinued in 2010 due to a loss of funding.

Boulder County: A Safe Community?

Most crime rates in Boulder County are low, a major contributor to the high quality of life here. However, there are a significant number of rapes here. In 2013, there were 52.2 rapes per 100,000 population. That's lower than the 55.7 statewide number, but Colorado has the 6th highest number of rapes per 100,000 population in the nation. The median of all 50 states and Puerto Rico's rape per 100,000 population was 36.9.

The increase in reported rapes from 2012 to 2013 is attributed to a major change in the way the FBI defines rape. That agency used to account for "forcible rapes" and redefined that dataset in 2013 to include all male and female victims of sexual penetration without their consent. In fact, "forcible rape" is a term that was long repugnant to victims' advocates. **This will better account for victims, including those who are drugged and unable to respond and victims of acquaintance and marital rape who don't consent to sex.**

Reported Crime Offenses, Boulder County

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Murder/Manslaughter	7	7	4	0	2
Forcible Rape*	67	57	81	73	162*
Robbery	117	71	87	102	74
Aggravated Assaults	528	463	525	436	420
Burglary	1,367	1,172	1,134	1,169	1,232
Larceny/Theft	5,447	5,448	5,000	5,609	5,514
Motor Vehicle Theft	320	283	331	329	333
Total Number of Offenses	7,853	7,501	7,162	7,718	7,575

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reporting

*The rape figures in this table are an aggregate total of the data submitted using both the revised and legacy Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) definitions.



FACT:

The nation is experiencing a rise in the abuse of heroin, and Boulder County is no exception. According to the Boulder County Coroner's office, there were seven fatal overdoses involving heroin in 2011; that grew to 15 in 2013 and 13 in 2014.

Reported Hate Crimes 2013 – Number of incidents per bias motivation

	Race	Religion	Sexual orientation	Ethnicity	Disability	Gender	Gender Identity	Total
Erie	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lafayette	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Longmont	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
University of Colorado, Boulder	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2

Source: FBI | Only locations with incidents are displayed

Incarceration in Boulder County

The Boulder County Jail (BCJ) opened in 1988 to house 287 inmates with charges ranging from misdemeanors to felonies and stays ranging from a few days up to two years. Today there are almost 500 inmates in the jail. The jail books approximately 10,000 inmates per year. Most inmates sentenced on felony charges serve their time in the Department of Corrections facilities outside of the county, and not in the county jail.

In 2007, voters approved a jail expansion of 64 beds to alleviate the overcrowding at that time. Since then, Boulder County's population, as well as the jail population, has expanded. Since 2010, the jail's average length of stay has increased by 14 percent, the average daily population has increased by 16.5 percent and the total yearly bed days used has increased by almost 9 percent. The cost per day to the Boulder County taxpayers to house an inmate since 2010 has increased from \$103 to \$110. This equates to a total annual cost averaging \$17.5 million dollars per year. These increased costs are partially attributed to an aging inmate population and inmates having more medical, dental and mental health care needs.

Division Chief Bruce Haas, who manages the jail, estimates that approximately 35 percent of offenders are diagnosed with Axis I mental illnesses. Axis I refers broadly to a principal disorder that needs immediate attention, such as a major depressive episode or schizophrenia. **County Sheriff Joe Pelle says: "Jails and prisons have now become the largest in-patient mental health facilities in the country, and 30-40 percent of the inmates in jails and prisons have serious, diagnosed mental illnesses."**

Several approaches to alleviate jail crowding have been implemented, including the Adult Integrated Treatment Court, which provides alternative sentencing combining probation with drug and alcohol treatment, mental health counseling and referrals to social services. Mental Health Partners (MHP) recently initiated a program in an effort to divert individuals with behavioral health conditions before they face arrest. Project Edge (Early Diversion Get Engaged) is a partnership with MHP, the Boulder County Sheriff's Department, the Longmont Police Department, Boulder County Addiction and Recovery Center and the chief judge of the 20th Judicial District. It's an effort to offer diversion into health treatment for certain cases.

Top Ten Age-Adjusted Leading Causes of Death in Boulder County (per 100,000 population)		
	All Causes	588.7
First	Malignant neoplasms	122.5
Second	Heart disease	111.7
Third	Unintentional injuries	56.9
Fourth	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	33.1
Fifth	Cerebrovascular diseases	28.8
Sixth	Alzheimers disease	24.1
Seventh	Suicide	16.6
Eighth	Influenza and pneumonia	12.1
Ninth	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	10.4
Tenth	Parkinson's disease	9.6
Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2013		

A High Suicide Rate

Boulder County's suicide rate remains stubbornly high – And Colorado has one of the highest suicide rates in the country. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. age-adjusted suicide rate is 13 per 100,000 residents. In 2013, nine U.S. states, all in the West, had age-adjusted suicide rates in excess of 18: Montana (23.7), Alaska (23.1), Utah (21.4), Wyoming (21.4), New Mexico (20.3), Idaho (19.2), Colorado (18.5), Nevada (18.2), and South Dakota (18.2). Here in Boulder County, the rate is 16.6, outpacing the nation.

TRENDS @ 20

The age-adjusted suicide rate in Boulder County in 2005 was 15.8, compared with a rate of 16.9 in Colorado. The age adjusted suicide rate in Boulder in 2013 was 16.6, compared with 18.5 in Colorado.

In 2001, 53 percent of teen births in Boulder County were to Latinas. In 2013, 68 percent of teen births in the county were to Latinas.

In 2008, 4 percent of adults living in Boulder County were diagnosed with diabetes. In 2014, it was 6 percent.

In 2003, 14 percent of the county's youth said they smoked a full cigarette before age 13. In 2013, it was 5 percent.



We Know Collaboration



It can feel overwhelming navigating the complex world of the modern health care system. We know there's a dose of relief when we talk about the role The Community Foundation is playing to help improve the quality of care in Boulder County.

The Boulder County Health Improvement Collaborative (BCHIC) was established at The Community Foundation in 2007, to increase collaboration between health care providers, human services agencies, health care advocates, patients, and nonprofit health clinics. It's amazing what sort of coordination can happen when more than two dozen representatives from hospitals, physician groups, community health centers, public health, mental health, dental health, and public safety work together.

In 2008 BCHIC identified the need for safe, secure, and timely exchange of relevant health data between a patient's providers. BCHIC helped Boulder County become the pilot community for the Colorado Regional Health Information Organization (CORHIO). Today hundreds of local providers are connected to the exchange, improving care coordination and saving patients and providers time and money.

Now BCHIC is focusing its expertise on creating a specialty care referral network.

"With healthcare reform, coverage expanded greatly and people are more easily accessing primary care," said Morgan McMillan, Director of The Community Foundation's Civic Forum. "But, securing specialty care remains difficult for tens of thousands of patients in Boulder County on Medicaid or those who remain uninsured. It can even be hard for those on Medicare and with private insurance. Members of **BCHIC identified that our collaborative could play a strategic role in addressing a challenge that needed a champion.** BCHIC is developing plans to support patients, primary care providers, and specialists in overcoming barriers to access while improving health outcomes. "

FACT:

According to the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, 13.6 percent of Coloradans 18 and older reported being current users of marijuana in 2014. Boulder County had one of the highest percentages of current users with 16 percent.

Feeling Inspired?

- **Talk to your children** about risk behaviors such as unprotected sex and marijuana use.
- **Talk to a counselor** if you have problems quitting drinking, or smoking.
- **Make it a priority** to be physically active with your kids.

Sources

Colorado Department of Regulatory Affairs
 The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
 The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
 The Colorado Health Foundation
 Centers for Disease Control
 Boulder County Public Health
 The Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Boulder County Department of Housing & Human Services
 The Boulder County District Attorney's Office
 Status of Children in Boulder County
 Boulder County Coroner's Office
 The American Lung Association
 The Longmont Police Department





Our Economy & Housing

**We've left the recession behind in general –
but not everyone is gaining ground**

INDICATORS IN THIS CHAPTER

Jobs by Sector

Wages by Sector

Poverty

Per Capita Personal Income

Median Income by Education

Education Median Income
by Gender

Household Income

Venture Capital

Public Assistance

For 2015 and 2016, economists tend to agree that Colorado is poised to have one of the best-performing economies in the country, with Boulder County preparing to continue its position as one of the top-performing economies within the state. Jobs are expected to grow, and unemployment is expected to remain low. In 2015, Forbes Magazine named the Boulder region as the No. 1 place to start a business in America.

As the distance grows away from the Great Recession of 2008-2009, the economy continues to show signs of strength here in Boulder County. But there is a growing divide between the haves and have-nots. The percentage of top-earners here is expanding, but poverty is growing as well and remains entrenched for Latino children, particularly in Longmont.

The soaring price of housing in Boulder County poses problems for the economy: It's pricing out not just lower-income residents, who face a dearth of affordable housing, but the working and middle classes as well. And those who can afford a home are spending more than the recommended amount of their income on mortgages and rent.

But soaring home prices and affordable housing aren't the only economic storm on the horizon. Colorado's state finances impact us. The forecast there is not good.



High Incomes, High Poverty

We all know Boulder County has a lot of prosperity, and the data confirm that: Median household incomes in Boulder County are quite high. But not everyone shares in that prosperity. The gap between income in Anglo households and Latino households is also very high. It's wider than the gap nationally: Latino households here earn a lower median income than Latinos nationwide, despite the fact that local Latinos have higher education levels than their national peers.

That gap is exacerbated by higher-than-average housing and childcare costs.

The county's top earners are making more money – about 26 percent of Boulder County's families earn a median income of more than \$150,000 a year, compared with just 12 percent nationwide. That's good news, but it isn't the whole picture. Our local poverty rate is substantial and growing: In 2000, 7 percent of the county's families with children were living in poverty. That grew to 11 percent by 2013. Adults 65 and older stayed steady with a 6 percent poverty rate. But the poverty rate for Latino children grew from a dismal 23 percent in 2000 to a much-worse 39 percent in 2013. That's higher than the U.S. poverty rate for Latino children.

The 2013 **Federal Poverty Level** was **\$11,490** for individuals, and **\$23,550** for a family of four.

Boulder County Total Full- and Part-Time Jobs by Sector

Sector	2003	2013	Change	% Total Jobs
Farm Employment	1,085	903	-17%	<1%
Forestry and Fishing	267	415	55%	<1%
Mining	1,003	1,866	86%	1%
Utilities	299	285	-5%	<1%
Construction	10,288	8,347	-19%	3%
Manufacturing	21,019	18,853	-10%	8%
Wholesale Trade	5,810	6,753	16%	3%
Retail Trade	19,917	20,526	3%	8%
Transportation and Warehousing	2,365	2,072	-12%	1%
Information	11,110	9,985	-10%	4%
Finance and Insurance	8,328	12,961	56%	5%
Real Estate and Leasing	10,232	13,358	31%	5%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	28,859	38,337	33%	15%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	1,086	1,305	20%	1%
Administrative & Waste Management Services	9,523	10,613	11%	4%
Educational Services*	3,933	5,299	35%	2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	17,935	24,609	37%	10%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	6,312	8,340	32%	3%
Accommodation and Food Services	13,824	16,946	23%	7%
Other Services, Except Public Administration	11,147	13,033	17%	5%
Government**	28,359	33,069	17%	13%
Total employment	212,701	247,875	17%	100%

*Private education services **Includes federal, state, and local Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

The 2015 **Federal Poverty level** was **\$11,770** for an individual and **\$24,250** for a family of four.

Women's Median Earnings by Educational Attainment*

	Boulder County	U.S.
Less than high school graduate	\$16,625	\$15,235
High school graduate	\$23,883	\$22,245
Some college or associate's degree	\$27,273	\$28,279
Bachelor's degree	\$33,900	\$41,814
Graduate or professional degree	\$49,131	\$55,768

*Women 25 and older Source: American Community Survey

Average Monthly Applications in Boulder County

	TANF*	Food Stamps	Medicaid
2006	84	394	319
2007	76	395	370
2008	93	480	450
2009	135	627	443
2010	135	645	378
2011	138	689	458
2012	140	814	559
2013	137	883	814
2014	115	963	552

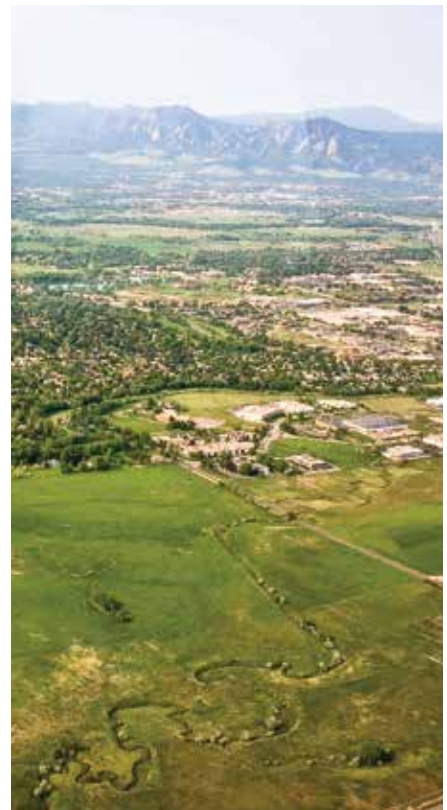
*Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Source: Boulder County Department of Housing & Human Services

2013 Median Household Income

	Boulder County	U.S.
Anglo	\$72,074	\$58,096
Latino	\$38,076	\$42,042

Source: American Community Survey



A High Cost of Living

In 2015, The Colorado Center on Law and Policy published The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado, evaluating county-level data on costs of living. Self-sufficiency is defined as how much income families of various sizes and compositions need to make ends meet without financial assistance.

The cost of living in Boulder County, particularly housing and child care costs, makes it one of the most expensive counties in the state in which to afford basic needs.

For two adults with one child in school and one preschooler in Boulder, the self-sufficiency standard was a household income of \$75,906 per year. The same family would only need a \$51,341 household income in Pueblo County.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE POVERTY LEVEL, 2013

Boulder	10%
Longmont	18%
Lafayette	10%
Louisville	5%
Superior	2%
Erie	4%

Source: American Community Survey



Jud Valeski, Gnip founder

We Know a Win-Win



We know one of Boulder County's gems is our vibrant start-up community.

When those local startups designate early equity to the Entrepreneurs Foundation of Colorado (EFCO) and have a successful event—such as an acquisition or an IPO—a portion of that success is invested in our community. In other words, the community is a shareholder in every EFCO company.

"EFCO is an incredible synergy between leaders from Boulder County's entrepreneurial sector and The Community Foundation. When EFCO member companies win, everyone wins," said Josie Heath.

More than \$3.5 million has been realized for community support because of EFCO—the majority through The Community Trust. Those dollars build the resource that responds to community needs year after year. It's another way for those with means to support individuals and families struggling to make ends meet.

"It's hard to see it up front, but it's 10 times more joyful than I could have imagined," said Jud Valeski, Boulder native and Gnip founder. Gnip was an EFCO member and made a huge splash when, after being acquired in 2014 by Twitter, it made a significant gift to the Foundation via its early equity commitment. "At the time, it was a methodical decision that just felt right... but now, a piece of paper has been transformed into real community impact."



The Nonprofit Sector

An oft-overlooked player in the local economy? Area nonprofits. And it's not just the neighbors they help keep in their homes after an emergency, or the food assistance they provide to families in need.

A study published by the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado in 2014 found that health and human service nonprofits make a \$255 million annual impact in Boulder County. Nonprofits employed close to 2,150 people and paid \$124.1 million in wages within the county.

That study was commissioned by the Human Services Alliance of Boulder County and the St. Vrain Community Council. It was based on data from 53 Boulder County human services nonprofits included in a comprehensive grant application used by Foothills United Way in 2012.

The report demonstrated that nonprofits provide jobs, leverage public funds for the common good, and draw dollars from outside of the county as well.

But those are just financial outcomes. Beyond the incomes and spending, the food, shelter, counseling and more are human services that have an immeasurable impact on our neighbors. This is money the government doesn't have to spend to support those in need with similar services. The report says:

"Boulder County human services nonprofits impact the community primarily through the social services they provide for individuals and families throughout Boulder County. Additionally, these nonprofits are also a part of the Boulder County economy, employing paid individuals and buying goods and services from local vendors."

Boulder County Median Earnings by Educational Attainment

	2006	2013	% Change
Less than high school graduate	\$20,745	\$22,185	7%
High school graduate	\$29,431	\$27,339	-7%
Some college or associate's degree	\$30,932	\$35,283	14%
Bachelor's degree	\$42,158	\$45,122	7%
Graduate or professional degree	\$57,577	\$67,245	17%

Source: American Community Survey

2013 Average Wages by Sector

Industry	Boulder County	Colorado
Construction	\$46,711	\$51,052
Manufacturing	\$76,769	\$62,393
Retail Trade	\$29,611	\$28,159
Information	\$104,415	\$90,242
Finance and Insurance	\$83,782	\$79,231
Real Estate and Leasing	\$47,801	\$49,096
Professional and Technical Services	\$97,659	\$84,852
Educational Services	\$31,480	\$38,828
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$47,182	\$45,906
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	\$20,743	\$31,916
Accommodation and Food Services	\$18,010	\$18,807
Public Administration*	\$49,157	\$49,197

*Local government administration Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



The Grand Marijuana Experiment

Colorado is at the forefront of legalized recreational marijuana, along with the State of Washington. But it's unlikely to remain that way. A Pew Research Center Poll in 2015 said that a majority of Americans, 53 percent, now support the legalization of marijuana.

One of the newest trends in Boulder County is the rising number of recreational marijuana facilities – a reflection of the fact that they were just born via Colorado voters in November 2012, and allowed to open their doors in 2014.

By mid-2015, there were 27 retail shops in the county, most of which were located in the City of Boulder, according to the Colorado Department of Revenue enforcement division. There were 23 medical marijuana facilities, which have legally operated for longer.

The chart on page 61 shows where medical and recreational dispensaries are located: The state lists them by mailing address, however. So while there are Longmont locations, for instance, that city banned the shops in 2011 and again in 2013. The Longmont dispensaries have Longmont addresses, but much like the Boulder County Fairgrounds, are technically located in unincorporated Boulder County.

One question on a lot of people's minds was whether medical marijuana purchases would be totally absorbed by the easier to obtain – but more expensive – recreational pot. Just one year of data allows a small amount of comparison, but in the months following the implementation of recreational marijuana, sales from medical dispensaries appeared to be slumping.

“For 2013, sales tax revenues from the sale of medical marijuana were \$309,519. For 2014, the revenues were \$268,388,” says Mitchell W. Goodwin, with the Boulder County Division of Financial Services.

That's the county's portion of tax revenues; there are also state taxes and municipal taxes on retail marijuana. If you observe the collection of taxes each month, there's a steady increase of taxes being paid on retail pot, and steady – but much smaller – decline on the medical purchases. The data suggest that indeed some medical users are probably switching to the retail market, but there are new retail customers as well – either new marijuana users, including tourists, or people who were buying it illegally before 2014.



Are the Tax Refunds in Colorado Marijuana's Fault?

The short answer is no. Colorado's taxpayers may well get a refund from the state – even as its general fund is truly threatened – due to TABOR'S requirements on state collections and refunds. Spending in Colorado can only increase at the rate of population growth plus inflation.

Taxes the state collects above that amount must be returned to taxpayers through a complex set of formulas. While national news organizations have pointed out that retail marijuana taxes might be returned to Colorado taxpayers due to TABOR, they are just one component of taxes that rolled into the state's coffers, and Colorado residents collectively spent more on just about everything than anyone expected in the most recent years.

Businesses and households try to save money during boom cycles to help them ride out the bust. Colorado's state finances are prohibited from doing that due to the complexities built in by TABOR and subsequent formulas to the state constitution.



FACT:

More than 48 percent of Boulder County high school seniors reported that they had used marijuana one or more times in their lives.

Source: 2013 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey

Marijuana Taxes Boulder County 2014

	Medical	Retail (State)	Retail (Local)
January	\$97,913	N/A	N/A
February	\$104,687	N/A	N/A
March	\$94,702	\$40,136	\$118,701
April	\$88,590	\$53,566	\$156,052
May	\$75,248	\$66,999	\$194,602
June	\$63,803	\$77,019	\$226,390
July	\$71,626	\$92,421	\$272,421
August	\$79,049	\$99,769	\$305,021
September	\$84,153	\$101,499	\$281,834
October	\$70,690	\$99,827	\$282,463
November	\$64,733	\$91,020	\$291,092
December	\$70,604	\$93,696	\$273,337

Source: Colorado Department of Revenue Enforcement Division

Medical Marijuana 2014

	Licensed Centers	Cultivations	Product Manufacturers
Boulder	16	37	14
Longmont	2	0	0
Lafayette	1	3	0
Louisville	1	0	0
Lyons	2	0	0
Nederland	1	0	0

Source: Colorado Department of Revenue Enforcement Division

Retail Marijuana 2014

	Licensed Stores	Cultivations	Manufacturers	Testing Facilities
Boulder	17	35	11	2**
Longmont	2	0	0	0
Lafayette	1	4	0	0
Louisville	2	0	0	0
Lyons	2	0	0	0
Nederland	3	2	0	0

**Testing facilities are two distinct addresses, but several licensees use one of the two

Source: Colorado Department of Revenue enforcement division





We Know Impact



We know that providing community leadership includes bringing other people and organizations together for stronger impact.

So, when The Community Foundation was asked to facilitate collaboration among nonprofit organizations serving homeless single adults in the City of Boulder, we were ready.

The Boulder Homeless Service Collaborative includes The Community Foundation, Bridge House, the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless, and Boulder Outreach for Homeless Overflow, known as BOHO. The Collaborative first did a data dive to better understand what services were being provided by the three agencies and how a seamless and efficient continuum of services could be developed to ultimately help clients find permanent solutions for healthy and stable lives. **Maximizing resources and demonstrating long-term impact are goals, but so is making sure that no one freezes and no one starves.**

“We came together out of our shared conviction that no one, absolutely no one, in our city should freeze to death

or starve to death,” said George Epp, Chair of the Bridge House Board of Directors, former Boulder County Sheriff, and a former board member for the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless. “Our hope is to help as many of the people who suffer from homelessness in our community to find treatment, if that is what they need, work, and a permanent home.”

The Collaborative’s action plan includes increasing capacity for resource centers and overnight and day sheltering, as well as streamlining client registration and data collection. And, the work meshes with approaches of other collaborations along the Front Range.

“By supporting collaborations among agencies, community stakeholders, and other funders, we strengthen Boulder’s ability to provide lasting solutions for members of our community who are homeless. **The Community Foundation is uniquely positioned to drive a deeply effective kind of change,**” said Elvira Ramos, Director of Programs for The Community Foundation.

The State's Mess

Phyllis Resnick, lead economist for the Colorado Futures Center at Colorado State University, uses an adage about the economy that is particularly appropriate in Colorado. **Down the road, the state will only have enough public funds to “medicate, educate and incarcerate” its residents.**

That is to say: After we spend money on programs like Medicaid, spend constitutionally mandated money on K-12 schools, and fund our state’s jails and prisons, there won’t be any money in the state budget for anything else.

“There’s really not a cause for optimism now,” Resnick says. “Colorado has one of the most complex state budgets in the nation, not by virtue of the dollar figures – other states are much bigger – but due to the many competing financial caps and spending requirements that have been added to the state constitution over the years,” says Charles Brown, the Colorado Futures Center director.

Most of those problems go back to a 1992 voter-approved Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) constitutional amendment.

Family Income Distribution 2013		
	Boulder County	U.S.
Less than \$25,000	9%	16%
\$25,000 to \$49,000	14%	22%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	30%	33%
\$100,000 to \$149,000	21%	16%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	13%	6%
\$200,000 or more	13%	6%
Median Family Income	\$93,165	\$63,784

Source: American Community Survey

Poverty Rates				
	Boulder County		United States	
	2000	2013	2000	2013
Individuals	10%	14%	12%	15%
Families with children	7%	11%	14%	18%
Older adults (65+)	6%	6%	10%	9%
Children	8%	13%	17%	22%
Latino children	23%	39%	28%	35%
Children under 5	10%	17%	18%	25%

Source: American Community Survey

A legislative fix has eluded the state so far, even years after the problems were identified first by economists. But it will impact all of us, with local governments, schools and local human service agencies left to fund services the state cannot.

TRENDS @ 20

There were 1,441 foreclosures in the county in 2009. There were just **256 foreclosures in 2014.**

Boulder County’s unemployment rate in the first quarter of 2009 was 5.8 percent – lower than the Colorado rate of 7.2 percent. The unemployment rate the first quarter of 2015 was 3.7 percent, **lower than the Colorado rate of 4.2 percent.**

Per capita personal income in Boulder County was \$36,041 in 1999. It was **\$54,968 in 2013.**

In April 2015, there were **27 licensed** retail marijuana facilities in Boulder County. There were zero before January 2014, when a new law authorized recreational marijuana in the state of Colorado.



Feeling Inspired?

- **Give** to area nonprofits that support those in need. Find a list at www.cultureofgiving.org.
- **Support** affordable housing measures in your municipality.
- **Donate** your time, food or money to an area food bank.

Sources

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
American Community Survey
Boulder Area Realtor Association
PriceWaterhouseCoopers
Boulder County Public Trustee
Boulder County Department of Housing & Human Services
U.S. Census Bureau
Colorado Department of Revenue Enforcement Division
Colorado Futures Center
Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado, Boulder
Human Services Alliance of Boulder County
Pew Research Center
Boulder County Division of Financial Services





The Housing Crunch

Housing market rebounds and prices are on the rise. That's good news for some, but not for everyone.

It's no secret that it's expensive to live in Boulder County, especially in the City of Boulder. In 2005, the median sales price of a single-family home in the city hit above the half-million dollar mark. It remained the only municipality above that line until 2014. Now Louisville is on that list, with Superior not far behind.

"We were renting in Boulder, but when we wanted to buy a house, we didn't find anything in Boulder that was even remotely in our price range," says Laura Snider, who lives with her husband and two young children in a Lafayette condominium. "We looked at both Louisville and Lafayette, but ultimately chose Lafayette because it was a little cheaper than Louisville for similar properties and because my husband works as a teacher at Peak to Peak."

Special Report to the Community

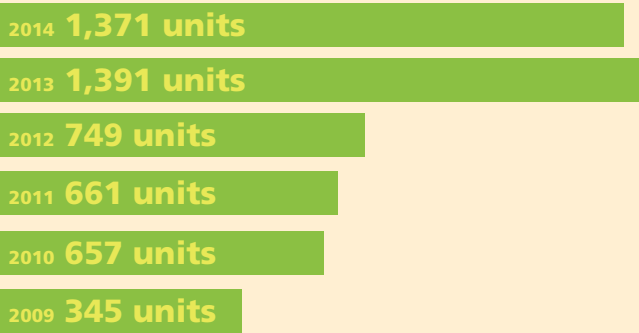
She says they feel lucky to have moved in 2011 – they would have been close to being priced out of their complex at the 2015 sales prices. Prices have soared around the county post-recession, putting pressure not only on low-income residents, but middle-income residents as well. Low interest rates and extremely tight inventory has made buying a home a frenzied and often frustrating experience.

“This hot housing market is the hardest ever for buyers. The county has run out of land to build on and there will be little new construction to meet demand,” says Lou Barnes, a mortgage banker in Boulder.

Elizabeth O’Neill Dennison and John Dennison bought their first home in Boulder’s Gunbarrel neighborhood after renting in Downtown Boulder for years.

They had eight offers rejected.

NEW HOUSING UNITS AUTHORIZED IN BOULDER COUNTY



Source: United States Census Bureau

“The housing prices in Boulder County are out of control,” says O’Neill Dennison. “You’re competing with all-cash offers from investors. Houses are going for \$50,000 above already high listing prices. One house we put in an offer for went for \$80,000 over listing. It was an entirely disheartening process, but we feel extremely lucky to have found a beautiful home ... I think we just lucked out with amazing sellers who were reasonable and sympathetic.”

When housing costs rise at a faster clip than incomes, it puts pressure on the entire economy.

“The high cost of living and real estate costs are a detractor to the economy,” says Richard Wobbekind, executive director of the Business Research Division at the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado Boulder. “This is a very expensive community, and that’s an issue.”

Boulder County’s Housing Stabilization Program provides assistance, mostly help with rent, to keep people in their homes. Since 2008, it has helped more than 1,700 households – 56 percent of which had incomes of less than \$20,000 per year.

Referrals come from nonprofit agencies – including EFAA, OUR Center and Sister Carmen – who try to identify clients who need help before it’s a crisis: Residents who can use just a little assistance for the major benefit of keeping them in their homes.

Housing Costs				
	Boulder County	Boulder	Longmont	U.S.
Owner-occupied housing	63%	49%	62%	65%
Houses without a mortgage	26%	32%	23%	34%
Owners* spending 30%+ of their income on monthly mortgage	30%	33%	29%	35%
Renters spending 30%+ of their income on monthly rent	59%	64%	55%	52%
*Owners with a mortgage Source: American Community Survey				

Economists talk about the 30-percent mark when it comes to housing costs – the percentage of a household’s income spent on either mortgage or rent. Spending more than that is considered economically unhealthy, and not just for those signing the hefty rent or mortgage checks.

In Boulder County in 2013, 30 percent of homeowners and 59 percent of renters spent more than that recommended 30 percent on housing costs.

That means they have less to spend on other things.

High housing prices cost local businesses, and in turn, local governments, income and tax revenues, according to a study by Colorado State University and the Piton Foundation, which is part of Gary Community Investments. The study found that too much money spent on housing means less money for everything else: Things like dining out, movie tickets, food and clothing.

While there are a lot of top-earning families in Boulder County – far more than in the United States as a whole – the largest group of families (30 percent) earn median incomes between \$50,000 and \$99,000. That’s very close to the percentage of families at that income level in the United States.

Median single-family home values in Boulder in 2013 were \$487,400; in Longmont they were \$237,900. Compared with the national median of \$173,200, there is considerable pressure on the middle class as families strive to own a home here. The values are estimates from the U.S. Census for owner-occupied homes. The actual local median sales prices, reported by local Realtors, are higher. As of mid-2015 there was no end in sight for rising home prices here.

Special Report to the Community

“Prices are going crazy but having lived in other areas of the country I can understand why,” says Darcia Thomas. She moved to Lafayette in 2015 with husband Marc, their young son, and with another child on the way. “We certainly feel like we overpaid, but it’s the price of admission to live in this area. I do think property taxes are strikingly low, having grown up in Nebraska and lived in St. Louis.”

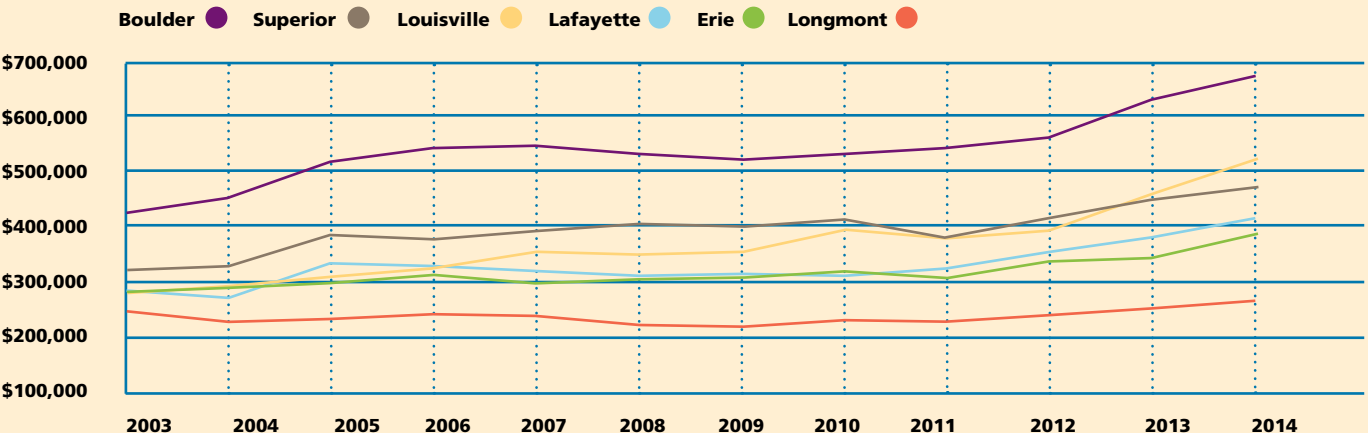
Indeed, when measured against other areas, Colorado and Boulder’s property taxes are low. A five-year study by the Tax Foundation ranked Boulder County 2,239 out of 2,773 counties nationwide for property taxes as a percentage of home value in owner-occupied homes; Colorado was 41st out of the 50 states.

“My fear is that people who have lived here a long time and people at different income levels will be priced out of the market – they already are. Socioeconomic diversity is important in any community for many reasons, and that stratification is happening all over the United States, but more so here, to our detriment,” Thomas says.

Boulder County Per Capita Personal Income			
	Boulder, County	Colorado	US
2007	\$51,436	\$42,724	\$39,506
2008	\$53,533	\$44,180	\$40,947
2009	\$48,891	\$41,388	\$38,637
2010	\$50,031	\$42,107	\$39,791
2011	\$51,893	\$44,053	\$41,560
2013	\$54,968	\$46,897	\$44,785

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

MEDIAN SINGLE-FAMILY HOME SALES PRICE



Source: Boulder Area Realtor Association

A Housing Market Rebound

New housing units are being approved and numbers of foreclosures continue to plummet.

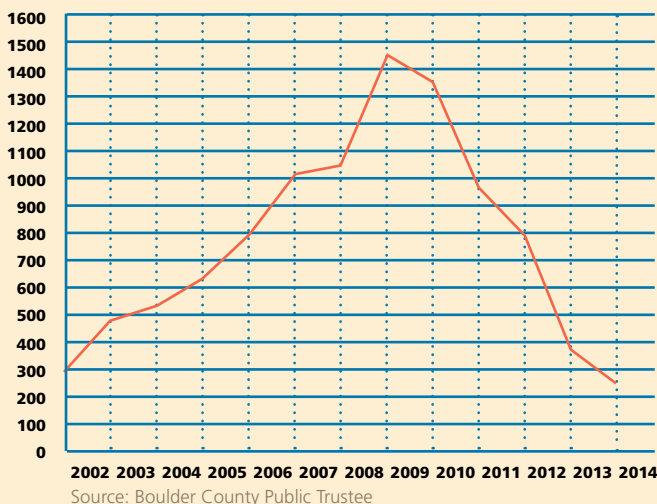
During the 2009 Great Recession, there were 345 new housing units authorized in Boulder County and 1,441 foreclosures. In 2013, there were 1,391 new housing units authorized and 392 foreclosures. In 2014, there were 1,371 new housing units authorized and 256 foreclosures.

Carrie Hahn bought a newly built home in Lafayette in May 2015, after moving here from out of state and living temporarily in a Broomfield apartment. She liked that her new duplex home was low-maintenance: It wouldn't need the improvement or repairs of some other homes she looked at, and she'd have outdoor space but not a lot of yard work.

"I knew I couldn't afford Boulder," she says. "I settled on Lafayette to purchase because it was an area I could afford and more importantly I saw upward potential of the 'affordable' area."

FACT: There were 706 homeless students enrolled in Boulder County public schools in the 2014-2015 school year.

BOULDER COUNTY HOME FORECLOSURES



Affordable Housing

Agencies that regularly try to find affordable rental units for vulnerable populations – including homeless people who are in transition to being housed, and families fleeing domestic violence – say the lack of housing is one of their top concerns.

Affordable housing is defined as homes, usually apartments, that are subsidized with funds including Section 8 vouchers or limited titles, so residents don't spend more than 30 percent of their household incomes on housing costs.

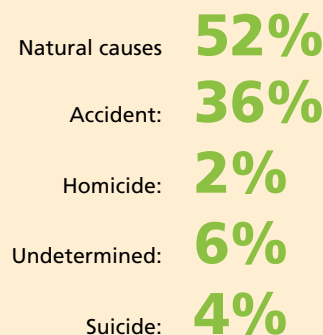
The City of Boulder has a goal of having 10 percent affordable housing; with 3,391 units in 2015, it was at about 7.5 percent.

The City Council in 2015 approved a phased-in affordable housing fee on commercial development to support the program. It already charges a fee to residential projects that don't build 10 percent of their units to be permanently affordable.

But with home prices rising around the county, affordable housing is becoming a key issue outside of the City of Boulder as well.

- Louisville in 2015 was working with the Boulder County Housing Authority to build a 190-unit affordable housing complex that would include a senior center.
- Longmont in 2015 was mulling putting a new sales tax on its municipal ballot to fund more affordable apartments.

CAUSES OF TRANSIENT DEATHS REPORTED TO THE BOULDER COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE, 2011-2014



TRANSIENT DEATHS REPORTED TO THE BOULDER COUNTY CORONER

First half 2014 14 deaths

2013 12 deaths

2012 9 deaths

2011 13 deaths



Housing First

"I'm very blessed, this is a blessing," says Jeff S. The 58-year-old has an apartment after living on Boulder's streets for many years. He can't quite remember how many. "This is the first time I've lived alone, in my whole life," he says. "I'm from a big family."

In 2014, Boulder's new "Housing First" apartment building opened its doors, ushering in a new era in homeless services in this region. Housing First is a national movement to build apartments for the chronically homeless, with the hopes of getting individuals who qualify off the streets for good.

The 31-unit facility is for individuals only. Families in crisis can seek help from OUR Center, the Emergency Family Assistance Association and Sister Carmen's housing stabilization program. Families fleeing domestic violence can seek help from Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence and Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley. For day services, Bridge House serves the area's homeless and working poor with meals, case management and more.

The Lee Hill Housing First building was opened by Boulder Housing Partners, and is next to the homeless shelter. But it can feel like a lifetime away.

The homeless shelter mostly functions as an emergency winter shelter with dorm-like rooms for sleeping. Two meals are served, and the shelter is closed during the day. There is also a year-round program for people in transition who are housed for up to 9 months. Those individuals have a bed to sleep in every night.

Special Report to the Community

Jeff had been in the homeless shelter many times off and on for years. The lottery system it uses – more people show up every night than it can shelter – meant sometimes he had to turn back to the streets. When it's very cold, the Boulder Outreach for Homeless Overflow (BOHO) helps shelter people on the floors of local churches.

He made it to the transitional program, just as the Lee Hill facility neared completion.

"This is the world's quietest apartment building, ever," Jeff says. He's proud of his tiny apartment, he calls it his "house," and apologizes for the mess. A brand-new mattress set had just been delivered by EFAA. A small kitchen includes a stovetop, refrigerator and microwave oven. He offers a tour of a friend's house, because it's spotless and he wants to show off his friend's hard work.

"They call me the TV man," he says. Indeed, there's a set in Jeff's house. And in all other houses as well. Jeff has a car, and was able to pick up television sets listed for free on Craigslist, and other sets discarded in Dumpsters in the City of Boulder near the university.

The Lee Hill apartment building is staffed 24/7. It is bright and airy, with a big common room. There is also a small bookshelf with two chairs, and two tiny desks with computers, which serve as a library. Turnover has been low as of mid-2015: One person passed away and another was asked to leave.

On this day it's pouring rain outside, but warm and bright inside Lee Hill. A housing inspector gives the OK on an open unit. A woman – a friend of many in the building – was able to secure a house there. She has been homeless for more than a dozen years.

Jeff says he's "blessed" a lot, and says the people of Boulder saved his life. But Jeff is also acutely aware that his living situation is unusual. He pays a portion of his government benefits as rent – about \$200 a month. "In this market? That is unbelievably inexpensive," he says.

FACT:

In 2014, Boulder County had 850 people in its point-in-time estimation of the homeless – 125 of them were chronically homeless. Chronic homelessness is defined as a person or family who is homeless continuously for one year or more, or who has had four episodes of homelessness in the last three years.





Our Environment

Are we as eco-friendly as we think we are? Boulder County puts a high priority on the environment. But our actions often belie our best intentions.

INDICATORS IN THIS CHAPTER

Waste Generation

Energy Mix

Greenhouse Gasses

Water Use

Number of Vehicles

Transportation

Commute Time

Ecopass

Where We Live,
and Where We Work

Lafayette resident Jeremy Simon is a dedicated bicycle commuter.

“When it comes to commuting, people who live and work in Boulder County truly have a charmed life, compared with those in other U.S. metro areas. To live in Lafayette and commute to East Boulder, you can choose between a beautiful predictable 20 minute drive, or a vigorous rolling 30 minute bike ride, some of it on dedicated bike paths,” Simon says.

When his marketing and communications career took him from a City of Boulder commute to Broomfield County, he continued his bicycle habit, even as it added precious minutes. Narrow shoulders and sometimes heavy traffic add stress to his daily rush hours.

But Simon isn't your typical Boulder County working father. As a bicycle commuter, he's in the four percent – the number of us who commute regularly by bicycle. Nationally, less than one percent of commuters bike to work. Most of us who work outside our homes pass cyclists like him while driving alone, in our cars. In fact, while Boulder County is often nationally recognized for our "green" proclamations, our collective behavior often speaks louder than words.



Talking Trash

Boulder County cities and towns have explored several ways to reduce what we send to the landfill, from fees to residential composting programs to incentives for recycling. The results have been a mixed trash bag, depending on where you live. The county's rate of waste diversion (which we define as garbage that could avoid ending up in a landfill through recycling or composting) is nowhere near the Zero Waste we say we are aiming for. In fact, in some of our municipalities, it's worse than the national average. But that doesn't tell the whole story.

According to a 2014 survey prepared for the Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board, residential waste diversion ranges from 60 percent in the City of Boulder to 27 percent in Superior and Lafayette. Commercial numbers are not made widely available, but residential waste is significant: It accounts for close to half of the county's trash.

Boulder, Longmont, Lafayette, Louisville and Boulder County have all enacted Zero Waste measures. These measures range from curbside recycling for single-family homes that started in Boulder in the 1970s, to the 2015 Lafayette ordinance making household composting mandatory.

The county-wide residential diversion rate was 39.5 percent, with the cities of Boulder and Louisville performing better than average. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the diversion rates nationwide were between 34-35 percent from 2010-2012. (If that number fails to impress: The national diversion rate was 16 percent in 1990. Yikes!)

The University of Colorado's campus residential diversion rate was 41 percent, higher than the national rate and higher than many of the communities in Boulder County.

Waste Generation						
	Population	Households	Total tons waste	Generated per capita	Tons diverted	Residential percent diverted
City of Boulder	101,808	41,382	121,690	1.20	40,678	59.5%
City of Lafayette	26,800	12,000	4,506	0.17	1,622	26.5%
City of Longmont	87,000	28,500	38,106	0.44	11,339	29.8%
City of Louisville	18,400	7,200	N/A	N/A	N/A	52.6%
Superior	12,500	4,300	11,429	0.91	3,035	26.5%
University of Colorado Boulder	39,200	7,300	5,622	0.14	2,458	40.7%
2014 RCAB Boulder County Community Survey						

City's Bag Fee Taking Hold

A City of Boulder effort to reduce the reliance on retailers' plastic bags became law in 2013. That movement was spearheaded by students in Fairview High School's Net Zero Club. The program charges shoppers a 10-cent fee on every disposable plastic or paper bag purchased at food stores within the city limits. Before the law went into effect, we used an estimated 33 million bags annually. Food stores account for between 60 and 70 percent of the bags used in the city.

Why target bags? **Plastic bags are difficult to recycle, and once they're in the environment – in water ways or atop trees – they're extremely long-lived.**

Paper bags are easy to recycle, but take a lot of water to produce. The fee was designated to cover retailers' costs and for programs like community clean-ups and reusable bag distributions, but the aim all along was to get shoppers to change their ways and bring their own bags. So, did they?

The goal for the first year was to reduce disposable bag usage from food stores by 50 percent. Within the first year, disposable bag usage from those retailers had plummeted by 68 percent, according to the city. In 2015, Nederland became the second Boulder County municipality to impose a 10-cent bag fee.

Coal Reduction

Burning coal creates almost twice as much carbon dioxide as natural gas. The Colorado Public Utilities Commission is overseeing an emissions reduction plan with Colorado's main utility – Xcel Energy – which puts Boulder's Valmont Station's coal facility on a path to closure by 2017. Southwest Generation's Valmont Unit 6, which is natural gas and steam, will remain operational. In 2015, Xcel was buying the energy from Southwest. If the City of Boulder sets up its own utility, which entity buys and provides generated power in the city would change.

But reliance on coal is waning – slowly, but surely. In 2015, coal production in Colorado hit a 20-year low. This was in part due to declining natural gas prices, and in part due to slipping demand for the heavy-emissions coal. As Xcel revises its projections for Colorado's energy supply mix, coal continues to decline. The state was 65 percent reliant on coal in 2005. In 2014, that had declined to 53 percent. **Xcel's projections**

for coal in the future continue to decline as well. It is now projecting 46 percent coal in the energy mix by 2020, and in 2015 revised its 2020 projection for renewable energy sources up 4 percentage points from its original projection to 28 percent.

Coal is very carbon-intensive, and Boulder County's reliance on it for power has kept us far afield from honoring our pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In order to meet the local goal of adhering to the Kyoto Protocol – about 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012 – the county would have to still slash emissions by 35 percent. It should be noted that this study is based on 2011 and has not been updated. The county reports they will review new data in 2016.

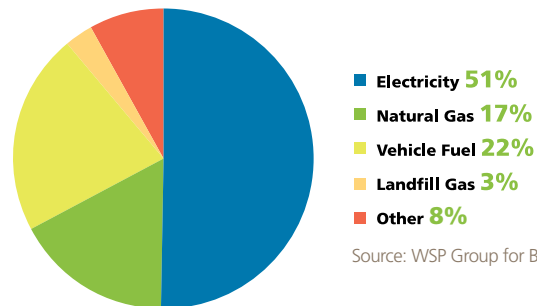
Electricity generation is the county's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. With demand for coal power declining and plans for renewable energy increasing, we may see some traction yet on our stated goals to reduce greenhouse gasses here.

Xcel Energy's Colorado Energy Supply

	2005	2012	2014	2020*
Coal	65%	58%	53%	46%
Renewables	5%	19%	22%	28%
Natural Gas	30%	23%	25%	26%

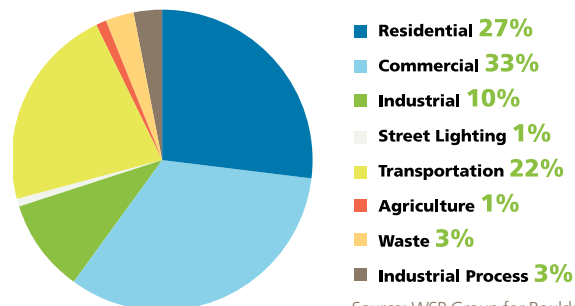
*Projected | Source: Xcel Energy

BOULDER COUNTY GHG EMISSIONS BY SOURCE



Source: WSP Group for Boulder County 2011

BOULDER COUNTY GHG EMISSIONS BY SECTOR



Source: WSP Group for Boulder County 2011

Water Wise

Despite the awareness of the need for Western states to pay acute mind to water usage, we here in Boulder County are decidedly average – or worse – water consumers. Estimates for per-capita water use in the United States range between 88 and 100 gallons per capita per day.

Per Capita Daily Water Use, Single-Family Residents (gallons)		
	2012	2014
Boulder	117	90
Longmont	125	102
Lafayette*	101	84
Louisville	107	148
Pine Brook	73	57
Superior	n/a	108
Erie	n/a	129

Source: Source: Municipal water utilities
*Lafayette's numbers include multi-family dwellings.

PERCENT OF WORKERS LIVING AND WORKING IN THE SAME COMMUNITY

Boulder	74%
Longmont	44%
Lyons	39%
Nederland	35%
Jamestown	27%
Louisville	27%
Gold Hill	37%
Lafayette	21%
Niwot	25%
Erie	17%
Ward	26%

Source: American Community Survey



Clearing the Air Pollution: We Fail

Now for some worse news: The American Lung Association's State of the Air 2015 gave Boulder County an "F" due to its high number of high ozone days. That's down from a "D" grade in 2013.

We did get a "B" grade for particle pollution.

The Environmental Protection Agency standards call for ground-level ozone in our region to stay below 75 parts per billion on average over an 8-hour period. The Colorado Department of Health has recorded measurements as high as 83 parts per billion.

Our high ozone* days are rated "unhealthy for sensitive populations" – a description that cuts a wide swath. **Groups whose health can be compromised by high ozone days include: Children and adults with asthma, senior citizens, children under 18, people living in poverty and people with diabetes.**

A 2014 collaboration between the University of Colorado in Boulder and the National Center for Atmospheric Research also showed that high ozone days can be dangerous to crops, by planting "ozone gardens." The plants in those gardens showed visible, physical damage from high ozone days.

Cleaning up carbon pollution is a powerful tool against high ozone days. As vehicle standards improve and Colorado reduces its reliance on coal for electricity, we may see improvement here. Notably, the EPA in 2014 approved new rules that could drastically cut emissions from U.S. power plants by 2030.

*Our hot summers and the topography of the Denver metro area – basically a bowl at the foot of the Rockies – has proven to be a problem for ozone for more than 30 years. But reducing ozone-causing emissions – from industrial power plants to residential gas-powered lawnmowers – would have an impact, environmentalists say.

Existing EcoPass Programs in Boulder County (2013)			
	Number of Passes	Revenue	Price per EcoPass
Employer Paid	23,159	\$2,385,377	\$103
CAGID*	6,362	\$795,000	\$125
NECO Pass2	11,298	\$835,773	\$74
Lyons EcoPass	2,067	\$30,512	\$15
Nederland EcoPass	1,470	\$85,279	\$58
CU Boulder students	30,417	\$4,297,761	\$141
Naropa students	1,049	\$99,246	\$95
Total	75,822	\$8,528,948	\$113

Source: EcoPass Feasibility Study, 2014

Getting from A to B

Most of us drive solo, in our cars, to work. In 2013, 65 percent of Boulder County's workers chose that solo ride. It's better than the national average of 76 percent.

In fact, while vehicle usage is hard on the environment – and traffic jams can fray the nerves – Boulder County has some things going for it, in terms of our daily commute. The tax-financed public transportation FasTracks project was designed to improve the commute in the whole of the Denver metro area, including Boulder County. This region felt all but ignored by that project for years. Coming into 2015, the northwest corridor, Longmont and Boulder had seen very little in the way of improvements. By mid-2015, bike lanes, toll lanes, bus rapid transit and a northwest rail line were all in a flurry of activity. How it impacts this region will be closely watched.

Eleven percent of Boulder County workers report they work from home compared with just 4 percent nationwide. Four percent of us commute by bicycle, compared with 0.6 percent nationwide, and 5 percent of us walk compared with 2.8 percent nationwide.



Boulder County Motor Vehicles					
	2000	2012	2014	% Change 2000-2014	Cars per capita in 2013*
Boulder	62,030	61,069	63,931	3%	0.61
Erie	3,378	6,736	7,058	109%	0.75
Jamestown	300	267	237	-21%	1.01
Lafayette	17,923	20,452	21,840	22%	0.79
Longmont	54,111	68,430	71,706	33%	0.78
Louisville	15,000	16,204	17,013	13%	0.85
Lyons	1,442	1,944	1,839	28%	0.93
Nederland	1,113	1,063	1,145	3%	0.77
Superior	6,800	9,170	9,436	39%	0.72
Ward	139	112	113	-19%	0.72
Rural	48,818	47,428	48,555	-5%	1.06
TOTAL	228,616	232,875	242,873	6%	0.77

Source: Boulder County Motor Vehicles Division, Colorado Department of Local Affairs
*Car data is more up to date than population data, so the per capita numbers are from 2013

2013 Commute Time for Workforce Not Working at Home				
	Less than 10 minutes	10 to 29 minutes	30 to 59 minutes	More than an hour
Lyons	21%	47%	25%	7%
Boulder	20%	61%	16%	4%
Longmont	17%	51%	26%	7%
Louisville	12%	60%	24%	4%
Superior	12%	57%	26%	6%
Lafayette	9%	57%	27%	7%
Erie	7%	53%	36%	4%

Source: American Community Survey



Choosing a Lifestyle, Not a Commute

While pro- and anti-population growth advocates and politicians in Boulder County are very focused on how to get workers to live near where they work, debates over housing affordability and density are front-and-center. It's a complex puzzle, and in many ways, for many workers, inextricable from our lack of affordable housing. **See The Housing Crunch, page 64.**

But choosing a home or community isn't just about choosing a commute or even the physical structure of the house itself.

Sophia Tsai is one of more than 12,000 Boulder County residents working in Denver. The attorney lives near her son's elementary school on the Boulder County side of Erie, but she drives to Denver daily.

"I grew up in the suburbs, so I prefer it here, where I feel like I am getting away from the city to a more laid-back place. Somehow, I don't sense that I would get the same feeling about living in the southern suburbs (south of Denver), which feel much more developed and urbanized than up north," Tsai says. "It comes back to the feel of my neighborhood, where I feel like I live far enough away from I-25 that I'm not next door to a booming strip mall. I like our quiet, rustic little area."

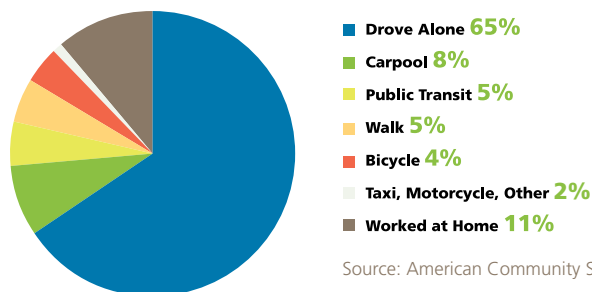
Get Out!

There are more than 115 miles of trails managed by the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department, and all-important trail connectors are being developed (and better yet, constructed) all the time. Trails from the county link with municipal trail systems, and other trails that lead runners and cyclists to beyond Boulder County as well. To find an outdoor paradise, many of us just have to head straight out the door.

Boulder County has about 103,000 acres of open space and conservation easements. More than 36,000 acres are open to the public. Another 21,000 acres are leased to local farmers. That's not including the open space in area municipalities, many of which are linked to county trails.

The area's voters have been historically supportive of open space over the years. Back in 1967, the City of Boulder voters became the first in history to vote to tax themselves, via a 0.4 cent sales tax, to buy and maintain open space. In November 2013, city voters extended an open space tax that was to expire in 2018; the current 0.22 cent sales tax is now set to expire in 2034.

BOULDER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION TO WORK, 2013



Source: American Community Survey





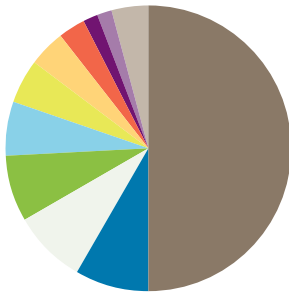
In 2004, 78 percent of Boulder County residents drove to work alone. In 2013, 65 percent of us did.

In 2000, 6.3 percent of the county's workers reported working from home. In 2013, 11 percent of the county's workers reported working from home.

In 2000, there were 3,378 registered cars in the Boulder County side of Erie. In 2014, there were 7,058 cars in Erie registered in Boulder County.

In 2008, Boulder County had about 1.3 cars per resident living here. In 2013, Boulder County had about 0.77 cars per resident living here.

WHERE BOULDER COUNTY WORKERS LIVE



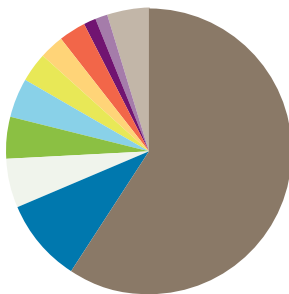
■ Boulder County, CO	50.3%
■ Adams County, CO	8.3%
■ Weld County, CO	8.3%
■ Jefferson County, CO	7.6%
■ Larimer County, CO	6.1%
■ Denver County, CO	4.8%
■ Broomfield County, CO	4.2%
■ Arapahoe County, CO	3.1%
■ Douglas County, CO	1.8%
■ El Paso County, CO	1.7%
■ All Other Locations	3.9%

Source: 2012 U.S. Census
<http://onthemap.ces.census.gov/>

Feeling Inspired?

- **Change a commute.** It doesn't have to be your daily work commute: Ride a bike to the gym, walk your children to school or park far from your office and walk the rest of the way.
- **Ask your municipality** about recycling and composting options.
- **Use a backyard composter** for food and yard waste.
- **Bring reusable bags** to shopping destinations.
- **Switch** to an electric lawn mower, and/or plant a xeriscaped yard.

WHERE COUNTY RESIDENTS WORK



■ Boulder County, CO	59.5%
■ Denver County, CO	9.20%
■ Jefferson County, CO	5.6%
■ Adams County, CO	4.9%
■ Arapahoe County, CO	4.3%
■ Broomfield County, CO	3.4%
■ Weld County, CO	2.9%
■ Larimer County, CO	2.9%
■ El Paso County, CO	1.5%
■ Douglas County, CO	1.3%
■ All Other Locations	4.6%

Source: 2012 U.S. Census
<http://onthemap.ces.census.gov/>

Sources

Municipal water utilities
 The U.S. Geological Survey
 The Environmental Protection Agency
 The American Lung Association
 Boulder County Motor Vehicles Division
 Boulder County Parks and Open Space
 Colorado State Demography Office
 WSP Group for Boulder County
 Boulder County Sustainability Office
 Xcel Energy
 American Community Survey
 U.S. Census Bureau
 Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board
 Eco-Cycle
 RTD





The New Normal

A Special Report to the Community

In September 2013, the unusual rains falling on Boulder County almost immediately got the attention of locals. It was heavier, colder, more relentless than even old-timers could remember of a fall storm system. Within hours, it was churning and rushing back up from the Earth, from creeks and waterways. Its brute strength ripped houses right off their foundations, reduced bridges and roads into rubble and smashed through window wells. It created new powerful pathways all on its own, from the prairies to the forest.

An enormous region was flooded, from Ft. Collins all the way down to Colorado Springs. But Boulder County was the hardest hit. More than 1,200 people were evacuated, many by helicopter. Tragically, four local residents died during the floods.

Special Report to the Community

Within days, the extent of the water’s damage became clear: more than 7,600 county residents would be applying for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Recovery is still ongoing in 2015 and 2016.

“ It will take us years – not months – to rebuild,”
Boulder County Sheriff Joe Pelle,
in September, 2013.

The Long Haul

Two years later in 2015, the county is still working to recover from that natural disaster.

Based on information from FEMA, 11,860 housing units were damaged; 445 fell in the major-to-severe damage category. Some homes that remained intact had bridges and other access destroyed, and were still using temporary footbridges mid-2015. Road reconstruction will continue well into 2016.

“As of May 2015, 20 months since the flood, we are still very much in the midst of long-term recovery activities. Round one of Federal Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds are just starting to be spent in May 2015,” says Garry Sanfacon, Flood Recovery Manager for Boulder County. The block grants are from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.



2015 Unmet Needs Assessment from the 2013 Floods

Cities and towns in Boulder County worked together on a project to identify unmet needs as of 2015. The price tag: \$918 million. They include: Boulder, Jamestown, Lafayette, Longmont, Louisville, Lyons, Nederland and unincorporated Boulder County. Here is a list of the largest unmet needs.

Flood Recovery Needs		
Activity	Unmet needs countywide	Percent of total unmet needs
Housing, including buyouts and acquisitions	\$195 million	21%
Business needs	\$13 million	1%
Creek/watershed needs	\$192 million	21%
Infrastructure	\$496 million	54%

Source: Boulder County Collaborative Block Grant Action Plan, 2015

Federal Emergency Management Agency

In 2014, FEMA pledged \$262 million to Colorado for public assistance for emergency response and public infrastructure reconstruction. Boulder County received the most – \$125 million. The agency’s temporary mobile home program which supplied 50 units to local residents ended in March 2015, a year-and-a-half after the floods.

Additional Public Support

The Human Services Safety Net, a voter-approved 0.9 mill levy on property taxes, extends to 2030. In addition to traditional safety net programs like food and shelter, it is an acknowledgement of our fragile ecosystem – and the fact there's a larger population now living in Boulder County, which is prone to floods and wildfires. The tax was designed and pitched to the voters as a way to bolster human services during emergencies, including natural disasters.

FACT:

25 miles of trails have reopened a year-and-a-half after the floods, at a cost of nearly \$1 million.

*Source: Boulder County

In the first **six months** following the historic September 2013 floods, The Community Foundation distributed **\$1.53 million** in flood relief funds.

Fourmile Fire, Five Years Later

The Fourmile Fire ripped through the Fourmile Canyon in September 2010. It was the most destructive fire in terms of homes lost in Colorado history – but only at the time. The fire destroyed about 6,200 acres and 165 homes (but thankfully, no human lives were lost).

The reasons so few homes have returned to the burn area are many. Some homeowners were underinsured and have been unable to rebuild; other homeowners, particularly those with cabins or second homes, decided not to return to the burnt environment, according to the county.

FOURMILE FIRE FACTS: FIVE YEARS LATER

169 Homes destroyed, 2010

86 New single-family home permits Issued, as of May 2015

53 Certificates of occupancy issued, as of May 2015

Special Report to the Community



The Fourmile Fire's devastation made Colorado history, but wildfires are increasing in destructive power in Colorado. The Fourmile Fire held the record for homes destroyed for less than two years, and ended with the High Park Fire in Larimer County in 2012, where nearly 250 homes were destroyed. That fire's record was passed days later by the Waldo Canyon Fire in El Paso County, which destroyed 346 homes and took two lives. In 2013 an even more destructive fire raged through Black Forest near Colorado Springs, destroying 511 homes and taking two lives. Land-use decisions that allow for housing developments in wildfire-prone areas and fire mitigation practices are just two of the policies cited for these record-breaking blazes.

“The path we are on will lead to a deepening of our fire-related problems worldwide, which will only become worse as the climate changes.”
– Professor Max Moritz, University of California, Berkeley, in a study with the University of Colorado Boulder, in November 2014.





Our Arts & Culture

**Boulder County is a hub of cultural offerings,
and a welcoming home to artists**

INDICATORS IN THIS CHAPTER

Arts Attendance

Contributions by Source

Earned Income

Economic Impact of Arts

Employment in the Arts

Arts Clusters

Ticket Sales by Type

Volunteers

Volunteer Hours

Arts Grantees in Boulder County

**“Art enables us to find ourselves and lose
ourselves at the same time.” Thomas
Merton, American writer (1915-1968)**

In 2015, the National Endowment for the Arts announced that the State of Colorado ranked first in the nation in per-capita trips to theaters, concert halls and museums. As much as the arts and artists enrich our lives and nourish our thirst for enlightenment and entertainment, so too do our communities inspire and support our artist neighbors.

Our growing towns and cities are expanding opportunities for artists right here at home.

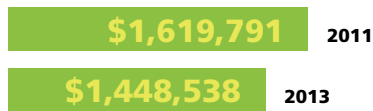
Natural landscape painter Wira Babiak lives in Erie, and sees first-hand the changing landscape of opportunities for artists here. Boulder’s strong support of the arts and artists is joined by fast-growing cities to the east as well.

“Lafayette, Louisville and Longmont are strong supporters of the arts, in that they sponsor, create and conduct more art programs for the community and give opportunities for artists to partake in public art – like sculptures on the streets and art banners – on a consistent basis,” Babiak says.

According to the National Endowment for the Arts in 2012:

- 52 percent of Colorado adults attended live performing-arts events, compared with 37 percent nationwide.
- 59 percent say they went to a visual arts event, compared with 39 percent nationwide.

IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOULDER COUNTY ARTS ORGANIZATIONS



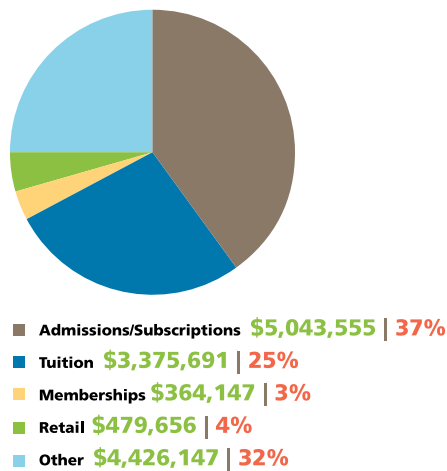
Source: SCFD

An Artistic Life, Well-Lived, at the Base of the Rockies

Did you know that Boulder County is one of the top “arts cluster” locations in the United States? A 2014 study by the National Endowment for the Arts examined U.S. Census and employment data at the neighborhood level.

Analyzing 22 industries, including museums, musical groups, theater companies, dance companies and commercial photographers, the NEA defined arts clusters in part by per-capita employment and concentration in areas large and small. Boulder was in the top eight, alongside such arts industry powerhouses as New York, Los Angeles and Nashville.

EARNED INCOME FOR BOULDER COUNTY ARTS ORGANIZATIONS, 2013*



Source: SCFD | *Percentages rounded to whole numbers.

Boulder County Arts Employment			
	2009	2011	2013
Full-time	76	106	114
Part-time	245	346	356
Contract	459	561	807

Source: SCFD

Denver Metro Area Arts Employment and Payroll			
	2009	2011	2013
Employment	8,718	9,354	10,205
Total Payroll	\$131,000,000	\$145,000,000	\$150,700,000

Source: SCFD

SCFD

Even if presidential politics are unappealing to you, you can still vote for the arts.

The 2016 ballot will include candidates for U.S. president, but also a renewal of a tax that helps fund arts and cultural activities in Boulder County and beyond.

Boulder County is part of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), along with the following counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson. Since 1989, the district has collected and distributed a portion of sales taxes (one-tenth of 1 percent) to arts nonprofits, museums, performance groups and more.

Wow, how times have changed.

In the 1980s, Denver was the cultural and commercial hub of an enormous region, but was financially restricted – by both attendance and finances – from attracting traveling shows and exhibitions, or the kind of upgrades and accommodations that big cities need to stay relevant. That “cow town” reputation of Denver’s past is but a memory today.

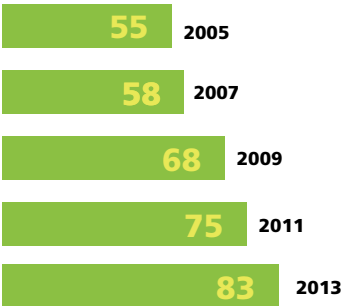
Decades later, Denver attractions have become world class, and smaller cities – including those here in Boulder County – have created genuine clusters of arts destinations and economic opportunities.

Today, the SCFD raises and distributes about \$50 million a year. If the 2016 measure passes, it could grow to \$87 million by the time it expires in 2030.

But all things aren’t created equal when you’re part of a sprawling district. Especially when that district includes a big city. Most of the money – 65.5 percent of it – goes to just five enormous cultural centers. And they’re all in Denver. The Denver Art Museum, Denver Zoo, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Museum of Nature and Science and the Denver Performing Arts Center have all grown into wonderful cultural destinations. But it does mean that all of the smaller municipalities, and what they have to offer, are competing for the remainder of the funds.

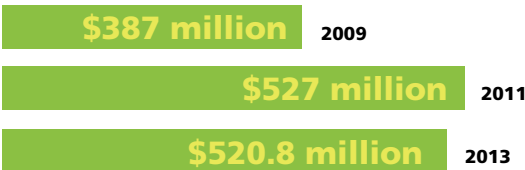
That said, Boulder County has seen the number of organizations funded by the SCFD district increase steadily over time: From 55 arts organizations in 2005 to 83 in 2013.

BOULDER COUNTY GROUPS RECEIVING SCFD FUNDING



Source: SCFD

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE ARTS IN DENVER METRO AREA



Source: SCFD



Arts Volunteerism in Boulder County			
	2009	2011	2013
Number of Volunteers	6,041	7,907	6,827
Total Hours Volunteered	244,965	215,687	190,943
Source: SCFD			

Arts Volunteerism in Denver Metro		
	2011	2013
Total Volunteers	50,460	44,438
Volunteer Hours	1.9 million	1.77 million
Source: SCFD		

The amount of money earned by arts groups funded by the district in Boulder County has grown substantially – from \$8 million in 2005 to \$13.7 million in 2013.

In 2013, there were two times as many people who attended a cultural event for free or a reduced price as those who paid full-price, according to the SCFD. It’s great news for those who believe access to arts and culture is important to society. It also reflects the rising costs of cultural events, and the fact that those ticket prices can pose a genuine barrier to people and families in need.

External funding mechanisms, whether it’s a tax or donations from individuals or foundations, help to make the arts accessible to all.

STUDENTS SERVED BY BOULDER COUNTY ARTS ORGANIZATIONS IN 2013	
Total Student Visits	127,944
Schools Served	815
Source: SCFD	

Colorado schoolchildren are direct beneficiaries of the cultural organizations here. The Education Commission of the States conducted a study of 25,000 students nationwide, and found that children exposed to the arts perform better on standardized tests – regardless of their socioeconomic status. But academic benefits aside, let's face it: The arts are fun, stimulating our creative sides and providing entertainment and inspiration. Boulder County arts organizations hosted close to 128,000 student visits in 2013.



The City of Boulder voters in 2014 overwhelmingly passed a measure that directly supports some of the arts and cultural institutions here. The 0.3 percent sales and use tax was designed to raise \$27.6 million for a host of projects, most notably the Civic Area in downtown Boulder, which will include public institutions and public outdoor spaces.

But the new tax was also promised to support existing and beloved arts institutions. Chautauqua, the Museum of Boulder and the Dairy Center for the Arts are all major beneficiaries of the new Boulder sales tax.

"When Boulder voters so overwhelmingly approved Ballot Measure 2A that included funding important arts capital projects, the arts community has felt new enthusiasm for all that the arts mean for our community. We have city officials who understand both the cultural and economic advantages a robust arts environment brings, which is building even more momentum. It definitely feels like arts and culture are in an exciting time of prioritization and growth," says Bill Obermeier, the Executive Director of the Dairy Center for the Arts.

Seventy Years in the Making: The Museum of Boulder

Get ready for it. Especially if you've been waiting for 70 years.

Seven decades ago, some visionary Boulder area residents hatched a plan to build a museum in Boulder. While this region and its arts offerings and robust history seem tailor-made for a stand alone city museum, the project never reached fruition. The county has smaller specialty museums. But the general museum has eluded us.

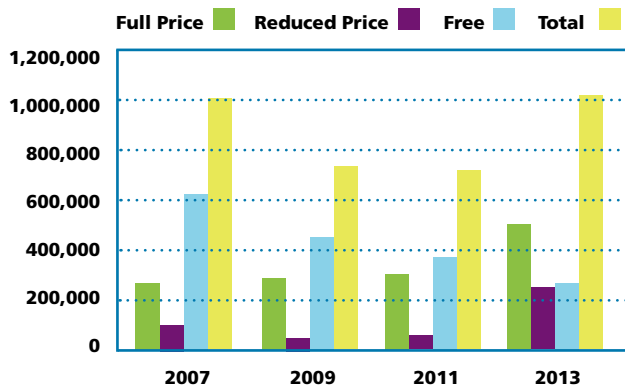
Until now.

The newly re-named Museum of Boulder, in the heart of Downtown Boulder, is now a reality. The Boulder History Museum is evolving into that 70-year dream. Housed in the former Masonic Lodge at the corner of Pine and Broadway, with 16,000 square feet, the building is nearly four times the size of Boulder History Museum's former location on University Hill.

The new Museum of Boulder will include a separate children's museum, and will be a home for Boulder's history, art, special exhibits and traveling shows in the heart of Downtown Boulder.



BOULDER COUNTY TICKET SALES



Source: SCFD

While Boulder is renowned as a cultural hub, those who live and are entertained in Boulder County know that many arts organizations are outside the city lines. A snapshot of The Community Foundation's arts grantees – who all received funds from the Community Trust in 2014-2015 – shows organizations that enrich county life, from the mountains to the plains:

Allenspark Community Cultures Council
 Art Underground
 ArtWalk Longmont
 Asian Pacific Association of Longmont
 Boulder Asian Pacific Alliance
 Boulder Bach Festival
 Boulder Ballet
 Boulder Chorale
 Boulder County Arts Alliance
 Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company
 Boulder International Film Festival
 Cantabile Singers
 Frequent Flyers
 Longmont Chorale
 Longmont Council for the Arts
 Longmont Museum & Cultural Center
 Longmont Symphony Orchestra
 Open Arts
 Parlando School for the Arts
 Shaolin Hung Mei Kung Fu Association
 Stories on Stage
 Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art
 Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra
 Colorado Music Festival & Center for Musical Arts
 Colorado Shakespeare Festival
 Dairy Center for the Arts



TRENDS @ 20

In 2005, Boulder County arts organizations earned \$7.93 million. In 2013, Boulder County arts organizations earned \$13.69 million.

In 2009, there were 76 full time and 245 part time employees of arts organizations in the county (excluding contract workers and volunteers.) In 2013, there were 114 full time and 356 part time employees.

In 2003, workers in the arts, entertainment and recreation sector earned an average wage of \$16,100. In 2013, they earned an average wage of \$20,743.

There were 6,312 workers in the arts, entertainment and recreation field in Boulder County in 2003. In 2013, there were 8,340.

Feeling Inspired?

- **Attend** an area performance.
- **Patronize** an arts event in a municipality other than your own.
- **Go** to a play at an area high school.
- **Buy** art from local artists.
- **Take** a class at a local arts organization.

Sources

The National Endowment for the Arts
 The Scientific and Cultural Facilities District
 The Museum of Boulder





Our Civic Participation & Giving

Boulder County residents are engaged, but some facts about our generosity might surprise you

INDICATORS IN THIS CHAPTER

The Giving Profile

County Rankings

The Community Foundation's Giving

Why Give?

Why Not Give More?

Volunteer Data

Nonprofits in Boulder County

Behavior

News Sources

Openness

Diversity Chart

2014 Voter Turnout

Voter Registration Statistics

Satisfaction with Living Here

Our communities benefit greatly from a high level of community engagement, from neighbors who speak their minds in public meetings to those who volunteer their time at area nonprofits.

Laura Kinder, who lives in Boulder County, is a longtime volunteer organizer, connecting people who cherish their community with the causes they value. Today, she's the Director of Volunteer Services at Longmont United Hospital, and sees first-hand the benefits organizations and volunteers alike get from civic participation.

"We have two 90-somethings still going strong in volunteer service," she says. "I have seen other volunteers go from driving themselves to using VIA to get here to continue to volunteer."

We are generous with our time, but not necessarily with our treasure.

Generous with Our Time

Boulder County residents can be extremely generous. The outpouring of support they show following natural disasters (See: The New Normal, page 78) is inspiring, and indeed can make it feel like the whole community is working together for the betterment of all.

Our willingness to spend time for others is open. Our hearts are open.

Our wallets? Not so much.

In 2012, the Chronicle of Philanthropy released a large study: “How America Gives,” which ranked counties on their median contributions to charity as a percentage of discretionary income. Out of 3,115 counties on the list: Boulder County ranked a paltry 2,014.

Charitable Giving: Comparison of nearby counties	
	Giving Ratio*
Boulder County	2.72%
Weld County	2.68%
Broomfield County	2.28%
Jefferson County	2.59%
Larimer County	3.23%

Source: The Chronicle of Philanthropy, updated January 2015
*The Giving Ratio is defined as charitable giving as a portion of adjusted gross income.

BOULDER COUNTY’S CHARITABLE GIVING

Giving ratio	2.72%
Total Contributions	\$276,800,000
Total adjusted gross income	\$10,169,473,000
Median contribution	\$3,052
Median adjusted gross income	\$104,035

Source: The Chronicle of Philanthropy, updated January 2015

Since Boulder County received that dispiriting rating in 2012, the Chronicle of Philanthropy has changed how it measures giving in communities. While the metrics and the data have changed, however, Boulder County’s performance relative to other communities still falls short.



A report released in January 2015 evaluated how much counties donated to charities and nonprofits as a portion of their adjusted gross income. It was called the “giving ratio.” **Boulder County’s “giving ratio” was 2.72 percent. Which was lower than the State of Colorado’s rate of 2.87 percent.**

In fact, Boulder County’s giving ratio placed it 44th out of 64 Colorado counties.

That’s not great. But it gets worse. Colorado’s giving ratio is the lowest compared with its neighbors. Arizona, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah and Wyoming all have higher “giving ratios” when compared to the State of Colorado.

While Boulder County doesn’t stand out for our financial donations to nonprofits, we are very generous with our time. The Community Foundation’s annual survey on civic engagement found that 45 percent of respondents volunteered with nonprofit or government organizations in the past year, including faith communities. That was down from 51 percent in 2013, but still higher than 2012 and 2011. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that about 25 percent of Americans volunteered in 2013 and 2014 – putting Boulder County way ahead of the volunteering curve.

Charitable Giving: Comparison of Nearby States		
	Giving ratio	Median contribution
Colorado	2.87%	\$2,958
Arizona	3.06%	\$3,013
Kansas	3.57%	\$3,574
Nebraska	3.67%	\$3,111
New Mexico	3.0%	\$3,276
Oklahoma	4.46%	\$4,584
Utah	6.61%	\$6,182
Wyoming	3.45%	\$4,088

Source: The Chronicle of Philanthropy, updated January 2015



Neighbors From Abroad

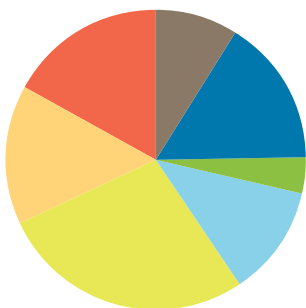
When we talk about demographics, our aging population and young Latino population tend to take center stage. **But did you know that 11 percent of Boulder County residents were born outside of the United States?** More than half – 56 percent – came to the United States before 2000. Thirty-eight percent of all foreign-born residents in the county are U.S. citizens today.

The rest include legal permanent residents, university students, workers with visas, and undocumented residents. According to the Department of Homeland Security, in 2012 (the most recent year available), 732 people came to Boulder County as legal permanent residents. Almost half of them were between the ages of 25 and 44. Sixty-four percent of the total group was married. The group included 23 people who were refugees or were granted asylum, 169 people who were granted status for work, and 392 people who were immediate relatives of United States citizens.

Where are they from? The largest number were from Mexico – with 186 legal permanent residents. The second largest group from a single country came from Nepal: 91 people from that country became legal permanent residents of Boulder County in 2012. A significant number of residents came from all over: 123 people came from “other” countries – outside the number of countries who had a measurable group of emigrants.

Our communities are becoming increasingly diverse, and there are tens of thousands of foreign-born people who have decided to make Boulder County home. Boulder County has a reputation for being “open” at least when it comes to certain progressive ideals. We have an opportunity for improvement, however, when it comes to immigrants and racial or ethnic minorities. The Community Foundation’s survey in 2015 found that those surveyed ranked our openness to groups of immigrants and to people of color at the bottom of the list, with openness toward gays and lesbians and young adults without children at the top.

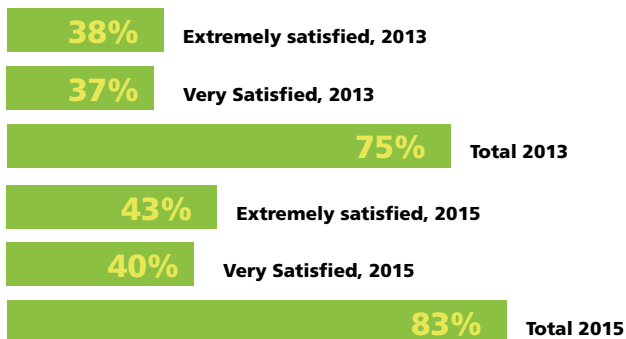
HOW THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GIVES BACK: A SNAPSHOT OF OUR GRANTMAKING IN 2014



Total grants in 2014: **\$5.78 million**

- Arts, Culture & Humanities **9%**
- Education **16%**
- Youth Development **4%**
- Environment & Animals **12%**
- Health, Human Services & Basic Needs **28%**
- Civic Engagement & Other Grants **15%**
- Public Safety & Disaster Relief & Preparedness **17%**

BOULDER COUNTY RESIDENTS CONTINUE TO REPORT BEING SATISFIED WITH LIVING HERE:



Source: TCF Survey 2015

**PERCENTAGE OF BOULDER COUNTY RESIDENTS
WHO SAY WE'RE VERY OPEN OR OPEN TO THE FOLLOWING GROUPS**

Gay and lesbian people	75%
Young adults without children	72%
Families with young children	67%
Senior citizens	60%
Recent college grads	58%
Immigrants from other counties	49%
Racial and ethnic minorities	41%

Source: TCF Survey 2015



Boulder County: Without the Rose- Colored Glasses

Maybe it was the recession, the worst economic disaster since the Great Depression.

Maybe it was some very recent, high-profile expansions of some of our amazing nonprofits that serve those in need, including Community Food Share, Sister Carmen, OUR Center and EFAA (Emergency Family Assistance Association).

Maybe it was the devastating Fourmile Fire or the historic floods of September 2013. (See: The New Normal, page 78)

But somewhere along the way, Boulder County residents have become increasingly aware of their neighbors' needs.

The Community Foundation's annual survey found that only 7 percent of respondents said they didn't give more to charity because "Boulder County doesn't need it." That's down from 11 and 17 percent in previous years.

What's important in making decisions about charitable contributions?

	2011	2012	2013	2015
The organization supports causes you believe in	91%	94%	85%	89%
It is an organization you can trust	90%	85%	80%	88%
You want to help your community	75%	79%	84%	81%
The feeling it is morally the right thing to do	74%	77%	81%	80%
The organization provides you with a clear understanding of the services and programs the money will support	83%	69%	64%	80%
The organization has been helpful to you or someone you know	50%	52%	48%	52%

Source: TCF Survey, 2015

Why not give more to charity? (% strongly or somewhat agree)

	2011	2012	2013	2015
You just can't afford to give more money	75%	70%	73%	71%
You volunteer your time	58%	53%	57%	57%
You think most charities have administrative costs that are too high	50%	50%	59%	55%
You just don't know enough about charities	39%	52%	50%	50%
You already give to your church	36%	30%	39%	45%
You already support too many charities	38%	34%	36%	38%
You're not sure charities are effective	n/a	28%	29%	30%
Boulder County doesn't need it	11%	11%	17%	7%

Source: TCF Survey, 2015

SOCIAL NETWORKING SITE USED TO FIND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND COMMUNITY EVENTS IN BOULDER COUNTY

Facebook	67%
Twitter	2%
Linked In	1%
Other	17%

Source: TCF Survey, 2015

FACTS:

Local volunteer activity remained high in 2014 with 45 percent donating their time to some sort of organization.

This was down from 51 percent volunteer participation in 2013, but still above levels reported in both 2011 and 2012.

The national volunteer rate was little changed at 25.3 percent for the year ending in September 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. About 62.8 million people volunteered through or for an organization at least once between September 2013 and September 2014. The volunteer rate in 2013 was 25.4 percent.

Source: TCF Survey, 2015

2015 501(c)(3) Organizations in Boulder County, As Measured by Annual Revenue

	Boulder	Erie	Lafayette	Longmont	Louisville	Superior	Nederland	Niwot	Boulder County Totals:
Less than \$100,000	816	65	108	293	108	35	24	25	1,474
\$100K to <\$500K	189	4	20	58	25	4	8	5	313
\$500K to <\$1 million	59	0	10	14	3	0	1	0	87
\$1 million to \$2.5 million	46	2	5	11	2	1	0	3	70
\$2.5 million to <\$5 million	17	0	3	6	1	0	0	0	27
\$5 million +	25	0	5	2	4	0	0	0	36

Source: Guidestar, Internal Revenue Service



Get out the Vote!

The City of Boulder has a reputation of being a liberal political stronghold. In varying degrees, the county has that reputation as well. The actual numbers show a slowly shifting landscape. Only time will tell if that translates to a different balance of power here.

Nationwide, registered voters are fleeing two dominant, major parties. Boulder County is no exception.

From 2013 to 2014, registered Democrats fell from 98,920 to 96,798 in Boulder County. Registered Republicans fell from 46,265 to 44,316. At the same time, the county’s registered voters who were unaffiliated grew from 93,916 to 97,129.

Consider that in 2004, 33 percent of the country self-identified as Democrats, 30 percent were independents and 29 percent were Republicans, according to the Pew Research Center. Democrats have lost one percentage point, Republicans have lost six percentage points – and the independents have gained nine percentage points. The numbers include newcomers as well as people who may have chosen to change their affiliation.

Boulder County Voter Turnout				
	2008	2010	2012	2014
Registered Voters	218,960	224,761	248,903	252,506
Active Voters	186,220	163,140	187,962	193,386
Mail-In Ballots Cast	116,235	89,941	130,252	135,902
Early Votes Cast	27,035	8,185	17,750	N/A
Polling Place Ballots Cast	29,261	29,405	32,710	8,431
Turnout as a percentage of active voters	93%	78%	96%	75%
Source: Boulder County Elections Division				

Boulder County Voter Registration Statistics, 2015				
	Active	Inactive	Total	Percent
American Constitution	222	67	289	0.1%
Democratic	79,259	17,539	96,798	40%
Green	1,058	490	1,548	1%
Libertarian	1,967	721	2,688	1%
Republican	35,533	8,783	44,316	18%
Unity	9	3	12	0.0%
Unaffiliated	71,061	26,068	97,129	40%
Total	189,109	53,671	242,780	100%
Source: Boulder County Elections Division				





Elections in the (Mail) Bag

In 2014, the State of Colorado changed to an all-mail ballot system, which advocates of the system said would increase voter participation and better reflect a modern life where waiting in lines to cast a ballot during a workday election was becoming less popular.

So ... what happened? For the state, more people voted, but more people had registered to vote as well. So there wasn't a big shift in turnout trends.

Turnout does tend to be lower during non-presidential election years, and 2014 was no different. In 2014, when measured as a percentage of active voters*, we had a 75 percent turnout in Boulder County compared with 78 percent in 2008 (it was 96 percent in 2012, when President Barack Obama won a second term.) The remarkable shift has been in *how* people vote, not *how many* people vote. In 2014, 8,431 Boulder County residents cast their ballots in person at a polling place instead of using the mail. That's compared to 32,710 who voted at a polling place in 2012 and 29,405 in 2010.

*Active voters are registered voters who voted in the last election.

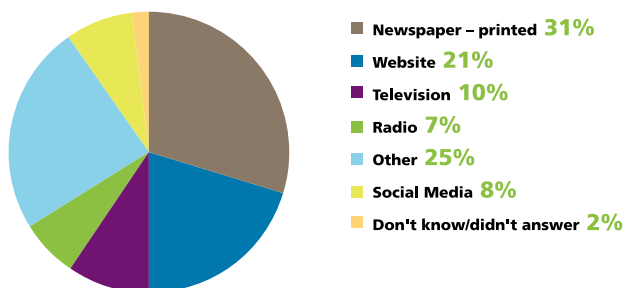
IN THE LAST YEAR, DID YOU...

Attend a public meeting	37%
Work with neighbors to improve your community	55%
Vote in the election	80%
Use a social networking site to learn about volunteer opportunities or community action events?	41%
Volunteer to help a friend or neighbor outside of an organization?	91%

Source : TCF Survey, 2015



SOURCE OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION, BOULDER COUNTY 2015



Source : TCF Survey, 2015



Who Leads Us?

Boulder County's elected leadership, and its advisory boards and commissions, are not reflective of the racial and ethnic diversity of the county as a whole.

In 1990, 93 percent of the county's residents were Anglo, or white non-Latino. By 2013, more than 20 percent of the county identified as a person of color.

Yet in 2015, only 7 percent of those serving on municipal boards or commissions were a person of color, according to a review by the Boulder County Commissioners Office. That percentage was unchanged county-wide from 2013, although Longmont saw an increase – from four people to seven people – in minority board members.

The office reviewed the lists of elected officials serving Boulder County residents as well. It reviewed city and town councils, county officials, school boards, RTD, and statehouse and Congressional leadership. Out of 104 elected officials, only four were identified as a person of color in 2015.

2015 Official Governmental Volunteer Advisory Boards and Commissions*

Cities/Towns	Total Members	People of Color	% of Total
Boulder	98	6	6%
Erie	32	1	3%
Jamestown	0	0	0%
Lafayette	86	9	10%
Longmont	132	7	5%
Louisville	87	4	5%
Lyons	72	1	1%
Nederland	38	1	3%
Superior	43	0	0%
Ward	0	0	0%
Boulder County	176	22	13%
Total	764	51	7%

Source: Boulder County Commissioners Office

*Data does not include Youth Advisory Groups, elected officials or staff acting as liaisons or, employee advisory boards.

In 2004, there were 176,224 active voters in the county; 89,886 voters cast their ballots at a polling place. In 2014, there were 193,386 active voters; 8,431 cast their ballots at a polling place, compared with 135,902 voters who mailed in their ballots.

In 2006, The Community Foundation's survey of the community found that 47 percent reported attending a public meeting in the previous year. The 2015 survey found that 37 percent of respondents reported attending a public meeting in the previous year.

Feeling Inspired?

- **Attend** your town or city's elected council meeting.
- **Vote** in the election.
- **Give** of your time, or your treasure, to a local nonprofit.
- **Read** the local newspaper.
- **Campaign** for an issue you care about.
- **Schedule** a TRENDS presentation for your church, business or civic group by contacting The Community Foundation. Call 303-442-0436 or email info@commfound.org and ask for a TRENDS presentation.



Sources

The Chronicle of Philanthropy
 The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County
 Sterling-Rice Group
 Guidestar
 The Internal Revenue Service
 The Boulder County Commissioners Office
 The Boulder County Elections Division
 The Department of Homeland Security





“ Since EKS&H got involved with the foundation in 2008, I’ve always thought that there’s not a penny wasted in support of all they do,” – Hy Harris, Principal, EKS&H and Community Foundation Community Partner

“ The Community Foundation’s TRENDS Report taught me where the biggest needs are in the county. The staff helped me get connected fast so I didn’t waste any time finding where I could contribute.” – Deborah Simmons, Trustee and Donor



The Community Foundation

The Community Foundation's TRENDS Report marks its 20th anniversary this year. As you've read in the TRENDS@20 boxes, much has changed in our community during those years, and The Community Foundation's work has evolved in response to the data. For example, we established the Leadership Fellows program, because a more diverse pipeline of leaders for community organizations and commissions was needed. We also created the School Readiness Initiative to respond to the alarming educational achievement gap. We use the TRENDS Report to educate grand committee members so their recommendations will reflect current community needs and opportunities.

The Community Foundation has proudly served Boulder County residents since 1991 and has granted more than \$64 million. We are always mindful that you want your donations to make an impact, and by using TRENDS to inform ourselves we can make a real difference together.

Whether it's helping to close the achievement gap, partnering with local entrepreneurs to build a culture of giving, expanding the pipeline and idea of leadership for Boulder County, investing in the nonprofits that sustain this community, leveraging donations during times of natural disasters, or so much more, The Community Foundation is in the business of using what we know to make a difference.

Stories about the impact of The Community Foundation's work are scattered throughout this TRENDS Report. When you see our logo, you know impact is happening. Just look for:



You can also learn more by visiting www.commfound.org or finding us on:



Donate

Our expertise means your donation will be a smart investment. Please support the work of The Community Foundation and make a gift today.

Online: www.commfound.org

By check: The Community Foundation,
1123 Spruce Street, Boulder, Colorado 80302

Through a gift of stock or a planned gift such as a bequest: A member of our Philanthropic Services Team would be delighted to speak with you: 303-442-0436

Definitions to Help Interpret the Data

This report uses a great deal of data from the American Community Survey (ACS), a nationwide survey to provide communities updated information in between decennial censuses. The most recent data available through the ACS is for 2013; thus, unless otherwise noted, data reported reflects 2013 numbers.

Slight differences between the Census and the ACS methodology may make for imperfect comparisons. The ACS collects data for all 12 months of the year, not for just a single point in time. Further, while the Census works to count every single person, the ACS is distributed to a population sample and produces estimates more at risk for statistical error. The bulk of the ACS data used in this report is derived from three- and five-year estimates.

The terms "Latino" and "Anglo" and "of color"

In this report we use the term "Latino" to encompass people identified as "Hispanic" or "Latin" by the American Community Survey, or other similar data collecting organizations. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race. We use the term "Non-Hispanic white" or "Anglo" to refer to people who self-identify as white and do not claim Latino heritage. We use the term "people of color" to refer to individuals who identify as something other than Anglo.

Students

Since 2006, the ACS has included group quarters like dormitories or sororities and assisted living facilities in certain data tables. Students living on campus, are NOT counted in poverty estimates. In contrast, students living off campus have been counted in the data as individuals, including in information on poverty, household income, health care access, etc. since the start of the ACS program. Such students have also been included in decennial Census numbers.

Income vs. Wages

"Income" includes wages, salary, bonuses, self-employment income, gifts, tips, investment income, transfer payments such as social security or food stamps, pensions, rents, and interest income.

"Wages" include only payments received from an employer in an employment relationship that is reported to the State of Colorado for purposes of unemployment insurance. Wages do not include self employment income.

"Per capita income" is calculated by taking all the income earned in the county and dividing this number by the population.

The History of the Boulder County Civic Forum:

The Boulder County Civic Forum was launched in 1995 as the Boulder County Healthy Communities Initiative “to promote healthy decision-making that will sustain the environmental quality, livability and economic vitality of the Boulder County region.” More than 400 community members came together to identify four visions for a healthy community, including a vision for the people, for the environment, for the economy, and for culture and society. Many of those 50 indicators are included in the expanded TRENDS report, 20 years later.

The Civic Forum is non-partisan and non-governmental, supported by businesses, government, foundations, individuals and The Community Foundation, of which it has been a program since 1999. Copies of the 1998, 2000, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, and 2013 quality of life reports are available through The Community Foundation’s website: www.commfound.org.

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The Civic Forum’s Goals are to:

- **Articulate** a vision for healthy Boulder County communities
- **Measure progress** toward that vision through a biennial Community Indicators Report and an updated website
- **Inform and educate** the public and decision makers about issues of interest and concern
- **Identify** community assets and opportunities for strategic action
- **Convene** dialogues and partnerships to address key issues through collaboration
- **Advocate** for systemic community change to create lasting solutions
- **Assess** the impact of these actions

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The Community Foundation's Report on Key Indicators



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The Community Foundation exists to improve the quality of life in Boulder County, now and forever, and to build a culture of giving.

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